

THE TIMES

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After 17 years, Daley Thompson reaches end of the track



Running into trouble: Daley Thompson pulling up in pain, left, during the decathlon event at Crystal Palace; clutching at his leg and being helped off the track

BY STEVEN DOWNES

THE athletics career of Daley Thompson came to an end halfway down the 100-metre straight at Crystal Palace, south London, yesterday, when the decathlon world record-holder pulled up injured before he had completed the first event of a competition hastily arranged to help him qualify for the Olympic games at Barcelona.

When Britain's athletics selectors named Thompson in their Olympic squad two weeks ago, it caused controversy because he had still to achieve the qualifying standard. After trying to achieve that in Norway last weekend, Thompson, 33, withdrew after four events because he was too far behind schedule.

His adviser, Frank Dick, Britain's chief coach, arranged the last-chance, two-day competition at Crystal Palace for Thompson to score the required 7,850 points before tonight's selection deadline.

In front of a handful of spectators, Thompson's effort lasted barely five seconds as he fell to the track with a hamstring injury, ending an international career which had lasted 17 years.

Thompson, announcing his retirement, said: "What I always enjoyed about it more than anything else is that I managed to brighten up people's lives. I think I spread a little happiness."

Last bow, page 34

TODAY IN THE TIMES

IN DEFENCE OF TABOOS



The Broadcasting Standards Council intends taking steps to protect the nation from violent male fantasies

ON THE SIDE OF THE SICK



Animal lover Andrew Blake is in the front line of the battle for medical experiments

CHAMPIONS OF THE DOG



Indulgent to a fault, the French are now the world's great dog-lovers

Cabinet slashes top pay increases to 4%

BY PHILIP WEBSTER, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

PAY rises for 2,000 top civil servants, judges and generals were slashed to 4 per cent from a recommended average of 30 per cent yesterday in a significant signal of the government's determination to hold down public spending.

In a move intended to encourage pay restraint throughout the public sector and private industry, the cabinet imposed the most stringent cut ever made in the recommendations of the independent Top Salaries Review Body. Previous awards have been staged, but this was the first time for six years

that they had been cut. The review body's proposals, that would have meant increases of up to 24 per cent for a band at the highest level, would have cost £27.6 million to implement in full. The 4 per cent across-the-board rise will cost £5.6 million. The cabinet agreed a further increase of 3 per cent next year and 2.8 per cent in 1994, on top of any annual increases for those years.

Sir Robin Butler, the cabinet secretary, would have seen his pay rise from £104,750 to £130,000 had the recommendations been approved. Instead, he will get £108,940.

At the same time, the government has cut in half the proposed £8,500 increase in MPs' allowances, also proposed by the board. Their office allowances will go up by 9.5 per cent compared with the recommendations that could have given them as much as 40 per cent.

The cabinet decided yesterday morning that, now that the rate of increase in average earnings is at its lowest level for 25 years, pay settlements in the private sector are running at 4 per cent and inflation is falling, it would be wholly inappropriate to grant increases of the order recommended. With the public sector deficit projected at £28 billion and the toughest public spending round for a decade under way, ministers knew they had to give a clear lead at the expense of senior public servants whose pay has slipped badly behind the private sector in the seven years since the last full review.

John Major said last night that many in the private and public sectors had had to take modest increases. The same principle must apply to those at the top of the public service. He knew it was tough, but "we must have equality of treatment".

MPs of all parties welcomed the pegging of top people's pay, but it was called a "slap in the face" by the civil service unions. Bill Brett, general secretary of the Institution of Professional Managers, and Specialists, said that senior civil servants had been betrayed and would seek better paid jobs elsewhere.

Ministers hope that the increase in parliamentary allowances is large enough to head off a big revolt when it is considered by the Commons next Tuesday. There is

Charter condemns jobseekers' Aids test

A business code says that firms who refuse to hire people with HIV should change their policy, reports Jon Ashworth

A new business charter backed by high street names such as Marks & Spencer, Sainsbury and the Midland Bank yesterday called on firms which refuse to hire workers who test HIV or Aids positive to change their policy.

The charter, launched by Sir Evelyn de Rothschild, the merchant banker, and backed by the Princess of Wales, condemned companies which operate such discrimination, without naming any individually. Texaco, the petrochemicals giant, last night confirmed that for the past four years it has followed a policy of rejecting applicants who are found to be positive to the virus. The company refused to say how many had been rejected.

Bosnia makes plea for military help

FROM MICHAEL BINYON IN HELSINKI

PRESIDENT Izetbegovic of Bosnia yesterday appealed to the 51 nations meeting at the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe here to support his embattled country against Serb forces and also called for military intervention to destroy Serb weapons.

He also urged the United Nations to deploy troops along the Bosnian border with Serbia, which he accused of launching a new thrust into Bosnia, bringing in reinforcements and a huge number of weapons.

As the leaders met, America announced that its naval ships would return to the Adriatic and the French said they would dispatch 700 troops and a squadron of attack helicopters to Sarajevo at the request of the UN. In Sarajevo itself a Canadian soldier was seriously wounded in a mine explosion.

During yesterday's fighting in the city the UN forces briefly shot back with small arms when they came under fire.

President Izetbegovic said, after a meeting yesterday morning with President Bush, that only military intervention could counter the Serb aggression. The West should either collect all Serb arms or, if the aggressors refused to withdraw, destroy their weapons. He had made this plain to Mr Bush, and the president replied: "This has to be stopped."

President Bush, speaking on the opening day of the CSCE summit, said shipments of food, medicine and other humanitarian supplies must get through to Bosnia "no matter what it takes". He called for tough enforcement of sanctions on Serbia, and more pressure for a ceasefire.

"If our CSCE community is to have any real meaning in this new world, let us be of one mind about immediate aims," he said. "First, we should see that relief supplies get through, no matter what it takes. Second, we should

Book pacts ruled illegal

The European Court has ruled that the Net Book Agreements operating between Britain and Ireland are illegal.

Judges in Luxembourg dismissed an attempt by the Publishers' Association to overturn an EC order banning the agreements which set minimum prices for retailers.

Gore picked

Senator Al Gore has been chosen by Democrat Bill Clinton as his running mate in the November election.

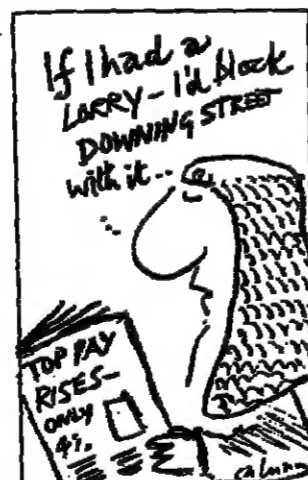
Exam results

The Institute of Chartered Accountants' PE I May 1992 results will be published tomorrow. Copies will be on sale this evening from 10pm at the Tobacco Dock entrance to News International, Pennington Street, and from Charing Cross, King's Cross and Victoria stations, Marble Arch and Leicester Square.

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tain to be a vote. Chris Smith, Labour MP for Islington South and Finsbury, tabled an amendment last night that will have the effect of restoring the cuts made by the cabinet. Gordon Brown, shadow industry secretary, said the government had to apply its policy across industry and the public sector, and that bosses they could not award themselves huge pay rises.

Managers welcomed the announcement, saying that Mr Major had shown he was in tune with the feelings of the country. Roger Young, director general of the British In-

stitute of Management, said: "The government is to be congratulated for having the sense to realise that it would have been irresponsible to have adopted the recommendations of the review body. Civil servants should be relieved that they have not been put in the same category as some private sector directors whose pay rises have been excessive."

The first division association, which represents most top civil servants, is to seek an urgent meeting with Mr Major. Elizabeth Symons, its general secretary, said she was deeply disappointed that the findings of the independent review body had been overturned. "The prime minister's reasons for refusing to implement his own review body's recommendations are transparently inadequate. The decision is damaging not only to the credibility of all public sector pay review bodies, but also to the civil service," she said.

Most senior civil servants had suffered a 3 per cent pay cut in real terms since 1985 against a 40 per cent rise for equivalent jobs in the private sector and it was not fair to rely on a sense of public duty, the association said. It added that, of the 670 top civil servants covered by the review body, 500 earn between £48,000 and £57,000.

The government's decision may influence negotiations over a pay deal for nearly 300 of the country's top police officers. Negotiators representing the Association of Chief Police Officers and police authorities and the Home Office are due to meet this month to consider a deal that might give some chief constables and their deputies rises of up to 10 per cent.

Major's cut, page 8

Body Shop counter-attack wins back stores

BY MICHAEL HORSNELL

ANITA Roddick's Body Shop regained control of six of its branches yesterday from a businessman who compared himself to God and the cosmetics chain to Satan.

Pauline Rawle, 50, who held the franchise for the shops, found herself in the High Court after she joined a religious sect, and made staff attend mystic violence courses run by the Victory Church.

The court ordered her to hand them back after they had fallen into a "deplorable condition". Mr Justice Patten said that the close relationship essential to the franchise contract between Mrs Rawle and the Body Shop

organisation, founded by Anita and Gordon Roddick, had "clearly broken down".

Mrs Rawle had told staff at one meeting that they had all been sexually abused before they were three. "Many of them found this distressing," the judge said. "She said Body Shop was responsible for a conspiracy against them. At one stage she compared herself to God and the Body Shop to Satan." He

said that matters came to a head when Mrs Rawle dismissed more than 50 staff, alleging that they were disloyal, and closed her shops.

He granted Body Shop, which has issued a writ claiming £340,000 from Mrs Rawle in respect of products supplied, an injunction removing her from control of the six branches, in Maidstone, Bromley, Canterbury, Romford and Croydon.

"She has caused very considerable damage to the plaintiffs without any justification. I take the view that she should be stopped as soon as possible."

Mrs Rawle, who lives in a

Continued on page 18, col 4

Summer Sale for Music Lovers

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Roddick won back control of six stores

European Court decision on net agreement hailed by big chains

Hague ruling puts book price fixing in doubt

BY SIMON TAIT, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

A RULING made yesterday by the European Court of Justice against the net book agreement was hailed by its opponents as the death knell for the system that has fixed the prices of 75 per cent of all books sold in Britain for the past 35 years.

Publishers said the decision would not alter their support for the agreement until they had a full legal interpretation. They believe the ruling will apply only to operation of the agreement across European boundaries, especially between Britain and Ireland.

The European Court of First Instance in The Hague, which deals with competition cases, upheld a ruling against the agreement made by Sir Leon Brittan, the competition commissioner. It rejected an appeal by the Publishers' Association against that ruling and several arguments advanced by the association in support of the agreement.

The agreement was drawn up in 1957 with the aim of protecting small booksellers from the effects of discounting by larger retailers and to encourage the publication of a wider range of books.

Terry Maher, chairman of Pentos Books, who has waged a four-year campaign against the agreement, said the decision vindicated opponents of the agreement. "Effectively, there is no net book agreement any more," he said.

The Reed publishing group left the agreement last year but other publishers have been less courageous so far. Now they are off the hook.

He is to try to have lifted an injunction, preventing him selling at discount four books covered by the agreement in the Pentos chains of Dillons, Hatchards and Claude Gill.

But Eddie Bell, executive chairman of HarperCollins, said: "This agreement is unbelievably resilient and our customers have told us to continue to support it up to now. I see no reason for withdrawing support."

Simon Master, group deputy chairman of Random House, said: "The publishers who have been ambivalent about the agreement have maintained it because the vast majority of their customers — the booksellers — want them to and nothing in this decision need change that position."

Lawyers are still studying the judgment but one said:

"The NBA is not in tatters as a result of this, but it's had a bad blow. The important thing is how the Office of Fair Trading will respond, and whether it will change its previous decision that the NBA was not against the public interest."

The chief effect of the European decision will be on the Irish book trade, which takes 80 per cent of its stock from British publishers and operates within the agreement. The Irish prime minister submitted evidence to the court in support of the agreement.

Gemma Barry, Irish chairman of the UK and Irish Booksellers' Association, said: "We are extremely disappointed. We believed the agreement was in the interests of the book trade in general."

Price fixing has been a feature of the British book trade since it was decided in 1900 that some order needed to be introduced after a discount war in the 1890s had forced several booksellers and publishers out of business.

The existing net book agreement, whereby publishers and booksellers concur on a minimum, or net, price for a book, was devised in response to the 1956 Restrictive Practices Act. The purpose was to protect small booksellers and to ensure a wider range of books not in the bestseller range.

In 1962, the Restrictive Practices Court ruled the agreement was not against the public interest, and it remains a surviving example of resale price maintenance in Britain, operating on 80 per cent of 40,000 hardbacks published each year.

In December 1988, the European Commission ruled that the agreement infringed the Treaty of Rome because it would affect inter-state trade, but the ruling was suspended because of the Publishers' Association's appeal, which the court of first instance has now dismissed.

Peter Phelan, the Publishers' Association's consultant on the net book agreement, said the decision would have no influence on the home market and that the chief effect would be in Ireland, which has operated the British agreement. The court has decided that that practice offends the Treaty of Rome.

Dillon's largest London branch, Browsers and bargain-hunters jostle for elbow space among the shelves. Few throw more than a cursory glance at the tables by the entrance bearing a selection of 40 paperback titles offered with the incentive: buy three, get one free.

It is a summer promotion which, while not breaking the net book agreement, is possible only because the Reed publishing group, the co-sponsors, has withdrawn from the agreement and "detached" its titles.

Dillon's says it is going well. But yesterday most customers were heading for the more easily accessible bargains of the book sale at the far side of the shop.

There, titles, most of them damaged or headed for the remainder list, were selling for as little as a third of their original price, part of a nationwide annual exercise by



Bagging a bargain: a browser checks the shelves yesterday

Saletime browsers buy, but only if the price is right

The name of the book discount game is getting bodies into the shop, reports Louise Hidalgo

publishers and 300 booksellers to shift slow-moving stock. Raymond Mace, a research scientist at University College near by, admits to being a regular browser but an infrequent buyer. "Books are far too expensive for me. I like the atmosphere but not the prices." He had come to buy but only if a sale item caught his eye.

Further along the shelves, Christopher Sawyer, 20, a medical student, was leafing through the modern fiction in the sale. "I buy two or three books a week but usually only from second-hand bookshops. Even Oxfam's getting more expensive." He supports an end to "price-fixing"

and has been attracted by Dillon's spree of discounts and incentives. "It's great to see books at half-price. They've gone up far more than inflation. The publishers have a monopoly: they know book-lovers are a specific type of people who are willing to pay. It's got to change."

Dillon's, at the forefront of the campaign to abolish the agreement, says the competition they instilled last autumn, when they discounted 22 titles and promoted them aggressively on price, certainly paid off. According to its research, buyers of the discounted titles went on to purchase at least two other books in the store and sales before Christmas soared.

The keystone of promotions is getting people into the store. Frank Brazier, Dillon's managing director, said, "If a person buys £5-worth of discounted book, on average they spend another £20 in the store."

A baffled court finds arguments irrelevant

FROM TOM WALKER IN BRUSSELS

IN making its ruling against the net book agreement the European Court of First Instance rejected several arguments put forward by the Publishers' Association and said it found the publishers' opposition to discounting the price of books unconvincing.

It described as "irrelevant" the association's claim that the agreement would collapse if it were abolished in Ireland. "Under Article 85 of the Treaty, a price maintenance system that restricts competition within the common market cannot qualify for exemption on the ground that it must continue to operate in order to produce beneficial effects inside a national market," it said.

The court also ruled as "irrelevant" the claim that in practice it is not possible for publishers individually to give notice of their conditions of sale to each bookseller. "The practical convenience afforded by a common system of giving notice may not be allowed to justify the establishment of a common system of net prices," it said. It pointed out that the European Commission had already suggested a way out of any such administrative problems: "Publishers could refer to standard conditions of sale... they would adapt them to their commercial interests and to their own individual situation," the court advised.

It also rejected the argument that booksellers would not be able to cope with the need to stock books of varying prices from a range of different publishers. Booksellers that had already defied the agreement had "rightly pointed out the modern administrative infrastructure [computerisation and so forth] which stock-holding booksellers have today, which alleviates considerably their burden of work."

The argument that the agreement bred confidence between booksellers because they knew they were not undercutting each other was "unconvincing," it said.

"On the assumption that a collective system of fixed prices may subjectively reinforce booksellers' confidence, this circumstance is not capable on its own of justifying an agreement which, by imposing uniform selling prices for books, excessively restricts the free play of competition in the common market."

Throughout the judgment the court appeared to be baffled by the Publishers' Association's total rejection of attempts to discount books.

Naval errors blamed for Antares sinking

A succession of errors on board the nuclear submarine HMS *Trenchant* led to the sinking of the trawler *Antares* with the loss of its four-man crew, an official report by the Marine Accident Investigation Branch said yesterday. The immediate cause of the sinking was the "partial breakdown in the watchkeeping structure and standards" on board the submarine, where the command team had "no clear appreciation" of the position of the trawler.

A manoeuvre by the submarine's command team to establish the range of the *Antares* would have eliminated risk of a collision in the Firth of Clyde in November 1990. The initial error was compounded, the report said, by inadequate attempts to contact other fishing vessels after the collision, which led to an eight-and-a-half-hour delay in mounting a search and rescue operation. The submarine left the scene and resumed exercises after dragging the fishing vessel down without any "appreciation of the reality of the situation". The report said that no blame for the accident could be attached to the *Antares*.

Gulf pilot dies in crash

Flight Lieutenant James Henderson, a Gulf war veteran, was killed yesterday when his Buccaneer jet crashed into the North Sea. His navigator was also presumed dead since neither managed to eject before the aircraft hit the water. Flt Lt Henderson, 28, flew Buccaneers in the Gulf. The maritime strike aircraft, which has a good safety record, was used during the war to help Tornado and Jaguar bombers drop their bombs with greater accuracy. The Buccaneer Flt Lt Henderson was flying yesterday as part of a formation of four. The aircraft, which was from 208 Squadron based at Lossiemouth, Grampian, came down 38 miles east of Leuchars in Fife. The pilot's body was found floating in the water. A search is continuing for the navigator. A board of enquiry has been set up.

BP cuts petrol price

BP will cut 4.5p from the price of a gallon of four-star petrol from today. Other oil companies are expected to follow by the weekend. Prices have been cut twice in ten days after reaching a high point of 245p for a gallon of four-star BP's maximum forecourt price will be 236p a gallon (51.5p a litre) for four-star leaded, 214.6p for unleaded (47.2p) and 225.5p (49.6p) for high octane unleaded. The company said that falling prices on world spot markets for oil and bulk petrol had allowed it to cut pump prices. It will send leaflets to 1,600 filling stations this week giving details of how the price of a gallon is made up, in an attempt to ease consumers' concerns of profiteering by oil companies.

Holiday trust in peril

The Air Travel Trust, set up 17 years ago to rescue holidaymakers who find themselves stranded when travel firms collapse, could run out of cash if one more operator goes out of business. The collapse of 17 businesses has left only £5 million in reserves, the lowest since the trust was established in 1975, its annual report disclosed yesterday. The failure of Sunair Travel and Zenith Holidays in the past two months is expected to further deplete the fund, administered by the Civil Aviation Authority, by £1.5 million. The trust wants the government to allow the travel industry to impose a levy on holiday packages to replenish its coffers. It says: "It is possible that either a single failure of a relatively small company in the peak season or a number of small failures at the end of the season could exhaust the fund's assets."

Boat chases record

Four men left Ramsgate, Kent, in a powerboat yesterday afternoon hoping to set a record for circumnavigating Britain. They expect their 50ft boat *Drumbeat Tantalus*, which is equipped with four computer-controlled 650hp diesel engines, to complete the 1,568-mile journey in less than 48 hours — slicing a third off the record. They will travel clockwise and stop only to refuel at Plymouth, Holyhead, Kyle of Lochalsh, Aberdeen and Hartlepool.

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Hospitals criticised

Teaching medical students to perform vaginal examinations is unnecessary for the students, uncomfortable for the women and embarrassing for both, should be abandoned, doctors say. Most doctors never need the training and those that do can learn after qualifying. Embarrassment among sexually inexperienced young students and worries about obtaining consent are leading to a poor standard of competence. Dr Linda Cardoso of King's College Hospital, London, an undergraduate examiner, says in the *British Medical Journal*: "I could take no pride in watching fumbling medical students desperately trying to impress on an examiner that they knew what they were doing when clearly they had rarely, if ever, inserted a vaginal speculum (inspection tube) during their training."

Aldington to pay costs

Lord Aldington failed yesterday in his High Court attempt to recover a possible £30,000 of legal costs in his long-running dispute with Count Nikolai Tolstoy. Mr Justice Morritt refused to grant a costs order in respect of a two-day court hearing in May, because Lord Aldington's solicitors had already agreed to pay his bill. At the May hearing, Count Tolstoy, who still owes Lord Aldington more than £2 million in damages and costs after a libel trial in 1989, had sought unsuccessfully to have his self-imposed bankruptcy annulled on the ground that his debt had been cancelled. At the 1989 trial, Lord Aldington was awarded £1.5 million damages for being libelled by accusations that he handed over thousands of Cossacks and Yugoslavs to face torture and death by communist forces at the end of the second world war.

House prices edge up

House prices rose 0.7 per cent last month, the Halifax building society said. The rise, it added, could be a sign that prices were stabilising. "Further recovery remains dependent on improvement in the economy and in employment prospects," a spokesman said. "With some increase in house sales over the next few months, house prices should move on to a gently rising trend during 1993." Despite the slight rise, prices are still 8-10 per cent lower than a year ago although in the North the fall is nearer to 3 per cent. Only in Scotland are prices still slightly higher than this time last year.

Tobacco actions due

Lawyers co-ordinating claims against tobacco companies by victims of smoking are considering legal action against the government for failing to give adequate warnings on the links between smoking and lung cancer. Two law firms specialising in personal injury claims have identified Liverpool and London's East End as pilot areas and are compiling evidence for a series of test cases after the recent Supreme Court ruling in the United States that health warnings on cigarette packets do not confer immunity from lawsuits. They believe that if the government is not sued as part of any legal action, the tobacco companies will try to spread liability and transfer to the government some of the blame for the smoking-related injuries.

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Slaughter laws 'are flouted'

BY MICHAEL HORNBY AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

EUROPEAN Community laws to protect farm livestock from the stress of long journeys are being flouted regularly, the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals said yesterday. Journeys lasting up to 60 hours without stops for food or water were common, it said.

After handing evidence backing its claims to John Gummer, the agriculture minister, the society called on the government to use its six-month British presidency of the EC to press for an eight-hour limit on journeys to the slaughterhouse for all livestock.

Mr Gummer said it was "a scandal" that minimum welfare standards were not being met but refused to commit himself to an eight-hour limit, which he regards as politically unrealistic. "The first thing must be to raise European standards to our own and to have a proper policing and regulatory system," he said.

At present, EC rules stipulate that animals should be fed and watered at least once every 24 hours, whereas Britain requires such stops every 12 hours, extendable to 15 hours if the whole journey can be completed in that time.

CORRECTION

Although the major part of the Royal Armouries Museum will move to Leeds in 1996 (as reported yesterday), the museum will continue to have a strong presence in the Tower of London also.

Builder gives bats a private entrance

BY PAUL WILKINSON

MODERN des res, ch. 4 bedrooms, 2 rec. gdn, ggrg, bathroom with pvt ent.

The latest in one-on-one partnership offered by a property developer in the North-East, the bathroom's private entrance is in fact a bat flap. Each of the 39 houses being built by Bellway Homes on a new estate outside Ashington, Northumberland, will have a space in the roof to accommodate Britain's tiniest bat, the pipistrelle.

The nesting box was a condition of planning consent to ensure that a colony of the protected animals which roosts on the site can continue to breed. At the moment they inhabit the eaves of the former headquarters of Northumbria police, which Bellway can now demolish.

About 100 of the bats, no bigger than a man's thumb and with a wingspan of about

nine inches, have made the building their summer breeding home and anyone who disturbs them faces a fine of up to £2,000 under the Wildlife and Countryside Act. The local authority was in favour of the development, but was determined that *Pipistrellus pipistrellus* should remain in situ.

Talks with English Nature, Wansbeck council planners and the developers produced the bat flap, a rooftop raised half an inch to allow the furry creature to slide inside.

A council spokesman said: "They cannot fly up and down under the roof. There is a limited space specially built within. A restrictive wall allows them just enough room to breed in."

Bellway is now waiting for the breeding season to end before bulldozers move on to the ten-acre site.

THE TIMES
FRANCE

FIZZ AWAY TO FRANCE

In Weekend Times tomorrow, your chance to win a gastronomic weekend in Reims, the home of Veuve Clicquot champagne. And in Britain, a tour of the fairways, and a question: are mushrooming golf courses posing a real threat to the countryside?

ON THE SEVENTH DAY

Supermarkets and hardware stores are full, car boot sales are booming, pubs are thriving, churches are empty... as the government frames new laws to reform Sunday trading, tomorrow's Saturday Review takes a long, hard look at the day of rest.

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HOME NEWS 3

Charity man jailed over witchdoctor's diamonds

By RICHARD DUCE

A CHARITY worker faces six years in a West African jail unless he can find nearly £250,000 after he was convicted by a Gambian court of stealing two diamonds from a witchdoctor.

Phil McLean, 39, was jailed for two years, with an alternative fine of £333, on condition that he repays the cost of the diamonds, valued at £234,000. If he fails to pay he faces a further four years in prison. His girlfriend, Lynn Cummins, of Eastleigh, Hampshire, said yesterday that the verdict was a "complete and utter sham".

Mr McLean, from Weymouth, Dorset, says that he was tricked into bringing two "diamonds" to Britain to have them valued for Patch Bowaro, a tribal warlord whom he and Miss Cummins met on a charity trip to The Gambia.

Mr McLean returned around Christmas last year to report that the stones were topaz and was arrested. After five days in a police cell, allegedly without food or drink, he was charged with theft.

Last night Stephen Milligan, Tory MP for Eastleigh, who has taken up Mr McLean's case with the Foreign Office, said: "This is an outrageous miscarriage of justice. From information I have received it seems likely that Mr McLean has been completely framed. I will be doing everything I can to ensure that he mounts an effective appeal."

A Foreign Office spokesman said: "We have been in close contact with Mr McLean but any appeal is a matter for him and his lawyers."

Mr McLean and Miss Cummins travelled to The

Gambia last year to deliver used spectacles for the British Overseas Optical Mission. They bought a hotel called Verdi's in Talinding and thought of settling down there.

Miss Cummins said: "At first he was asked if we would be interested in buying some diamonds, but we said 'no'. Phil was then asked if he would mind taking two stones back to Britain. Since then our lives have been a nightmare."

A Gambian magistrate, J.D. Amartey, sitting at a court in Kanifing, said that Mr McLean had admitted to police that he sold the diamonds and pretended to the owner that they were topaz stones.

Mr McLean spent the period waiting for the trial verdict in hiding after falling sick, apparently after being threatened with a voodoo curse. According to Miss Cummins he was beaten and intimidated in Talinding by followers of Patch Bowaro.

Miss Cummins believes that Mr McLean was the victim of a "sting" orchestrated by the witchdoctor. "His life has been made a misery by this witchdoctor, who spends all his time chanting in the village and dancing round cow horns."

She said: "He will never survive in jail. He is a sick man and conditions in prisons out there are unimaginably bad. I am virtually bankrupt and scared stiff of going back to The Gambia, although I am desperate to help him."

"The witchdoctors are very powerful figures and run the place out of fear. The last time I went out there I had to go into hiding because they were after me."



Unrestrained: a purple taffeta dress with bouffant skirt and layered flounces, left, and a chocolate and gold check wool suit with pleated skirt. Both are vigorous Marc Bohan designs that will help to rejuvenate the staid image of the Hartnell fashion house



Hartnell revived in a blaze of scarlet

By LIZ SMITH
FASHION EDITOR

DAZZLING red suits by Marc Bohan, commissioned by Princess Caroline for the hostesses in the Monaco pavilion at Seville Expo, proved to be simply the warm-up for the explosion of red in his latest collection for Hartnell.

The designer, who headed Dior in Paris for more than three decades and moved to Hartnell in London two years ago to salvage its fading image, did his utmost to brighten the dowager house of British couture yesterday with a collection of glamorous outfits in shades of red.

The customary restraint of his designs, usually in navy and grey check suits, was relinquished in favour of every shade of red from scarlet cashmere and salmon pink tweed for top coats and slinky long-skirted suits to purple satin and vermilion taffeta for night.

It was hoped that M Bohan's rejuvenation of the couture house's fashion image a decade after Sir Norman Hartnell's death in 1979 might have attracted the new generation of British royals. But the Princess of Wales has yet to place an order and, in spite of designing spectacular dresses for a clutch of high society brides, he was not chosen by Lady Helen Windsor, this month's royal bride.

Runners seen after stabbing

By MICHAEL HORSNELL

TWO women were seen by a passing doctor as they ran from the home of Alison Shaughnessy at the time she was stabbed to death, the Central Criminal Court was told yesterday.

Dr Michael Unsworth, who was cycling past, told the jury that something about them had "jarred". "My impression was that they were going running, but one of them was carrying a bag. Clearly you don't carry a bag if you are going running round the block. It was a bulky bag." He thought they were taking clothes to the laundry, but the laundry was in the opposite direction.

Dr Unsworth said the two were in their early twenties or late teens. They had blonde hair. He put their height at 5ft 4in to 5ft 6in.

Michelle Taylor, aged 21, Mrs Shaughnessy's rival in love, and her sister Lisa, 18, from Kemble Road, Forest Hill, south London, deny murdering Mrs Shaughnessy, 21, as she arrived home from work at her flat in Battersea, south London. The sisters claim they were at a friend's home at the time she was stabbed 54 times on June 3 last year.

The doctor said he had returned with police and pointed out the house from which the runners emerged. It was 41 Vardens Road, where Alison lived with her husband John. He has admitted a pre-marital affair with Michelle Taylor.

The trial continues today.

'Dirty hands' put girls off engineering

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

THE most famous engineer in the country is Kevin Webster, the car mechanic in Coronation Street, according to a survey of Nottinghamshire teenagers.

The survey presents an all-too-accurate view of the image of engineering in Britain, said Bryan Button, dean of engineering at Nottingham Polytechnic, where the survey was organised. "It is all very disappointing," he said. "While Kevin may be a valuable member of the engineering fraternity, he is not a true engineer."

The study, based on interviews with more than 150 pupils aged 14, shows "a lack of understanding of what engineering is about". Professor Button said. When the teenagers were given a list of jobs, such as installing telephone cables, repairing cars, designing computer software, or fixing clocks, and asked which were done by engineers, they were unable to come up with the right answers.

"They could not distinguish between engineers and mechanics," he said.

When asked what characteristics they associated with engineering, they chose "dirty hands" or "men's work" rather than advanced technology or the ability to make things. The prejudice against engineering is one reason so few girls are attracted to the profession, the study concludes.

Another may be active discouragement from teachers. One physics teacher said: "Girls can't do electronics." When one female pupil questioned a science teacher, she was told not to be a moaning minnie; a boy asking the same questions was given 15 minutes of the teacher's time. "These misperceptions of engineering are shared by a lot of career advisers," Professor Button said.

The study was part of a campaign to give girls a flavour of what engineering is so that they can make informed career choices.

STOP PRESS FRANCE - WITH THE TIMES AND LBC

Each week throughout the summer, *The Times* and LBC will bring you news of last minute bargains for travellers to France, and the latest information on bookings, flights, traffic delays and holiday ideas

By LUCY ROCK
All roads are now clear of lorry drivers' barricades. However, the AA warns travellers to expect heavy traffic, especially on routes to the South, South-West and West coast, because school holidays have started and normal restrictions on lorries travelling at the weekend have been lifted to ease the backlog of deliveries. They are also lifted on Tuesday, Bastille Day.

Striking doctors have set up a barricade near Bordeaux. Today, the Tour de France heads from Roubaix, near Lille, into Belgium.

FLIGHTS

British Midland has seats on all flights to France over the next week. Air UK has seats outbound and inbound over the weekend between

THE TIMES
PASSPORT TO
FRANCE

LBC NEWS TALK 97.3

Nice and Stansted and between Paris and Stansted, Leeds, Newcastle and Aberdeen. Air France has space from Heathrow to Paris and Nice. Afternoon departures to Paris from London City are full. There is little space on Dan Air from Gatwick to Toulouse.

OFFERS

P&O is offering theme breaks, including riding in the Loire valley, ballooning in Normandy, gourmet and wine weekends and trips to first world war battlefields. Cosmos is offering camping holidays by coach to Mar Estang for £154 per person

when six people share a tent. Sealink Stena has short-break Rail & Sail trips from London to Paris for £55.

RAILWAYS

SNCF motorail trains have space on all routes from Boulogne this weekend. The trains have sleeping accommodation only, no seats.

FERRIES

P&O has limited space from Portsmouth to Cherbourg over the weekend and recommends reservations. Brittany Ferries has limited space on most sailings next week.

RATES

The franc has strengthened against the pound and Traveler's advice changing money early. Exchange rates are between 9.27 and 9.31 when buying and 10.14 and 10.18 when selling.

Travel writer Willy Newlands will be interviewed by Angela Rippon on LBC *NEWSTALK's Drivetime* programme on Thursday, July 16, at 6.50pm.

Passport to France
L&T section, page 4

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As you can see from the table below, the new Toyota Carina E is the car in front.

However, don't just take our word for it.

In the Auto-Express K-reg special, the Editor voted it the **best buy** among medium-sized cars. And the rest of the press hasn't been backward in getting behind the Carina E, either.

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THE SCOTSMAN, 15TH MAY 1992.

"The engine hummed sweetly and the air flowed almost silently around curvy body panels."

THE FINANCIAL TIMES, 30TH MAY 1992.

"Fine build and finish, generous equipment, advanced engines, aggressive pricing, it's hard to see how Toyota can go wrong."

AUTOCAR & MOTOR, 20TH MAY 1992.

"The new-found air of Lexus-type build quality and reserved styling stands to be an attractive proposition for European drivers."

AUTOCAR & MOTOR, 4TH MARCH 1992.

"Cabin room is a definite Carina E strong suit. In the front, large footwells combine with excellent head, shoulder and legroom to provide an immediate feeling of spaciousness. Build quality and Toyota's reputation for reliability count as further aces."

CAR, APRIL 1992.

"Thanks to the world's most advanced lean burn engine so far, the 1.6-litre Carina can return 57 mpg at the standard cruising speed of 56 mph, a figure that edges its petrol engine almost into the realms of diesel economy."

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	Power (bhp)	Max Speed (mph)	0-60 mph (sec)	Lean Burn Engine	mpg at 56 mph/75 mph/urban	Boot Capacity (cu. ft)	Power Steering	Electric Sunroof	Alarm & Immobiliser	Side Impact Bars	3 yr/60,000 mile warranty	RDS Stereo Radio Cassette
Toyota Carina E 1.6 XLi 4-door	106	118	11.2	Yes	57.6/42.3/35.3	19.2	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Ford Sierra Sapphire 1.6 LX 4-door	80	104	13.1	No	44.8/35.3/27.7	14.6	No	Manual	Alarm only	No	No	No
Vauxhall Cavalier 1.6iL 4-door	75	109	14.0	No	54.3/41.5/31.7	18.7	Yes	Manual	No	No	No	No
Nissan Primera 1.6 LX 4-door	90	112	11.2	No	53.3/40.9/31.4	16.6	Yes	Manual	No	No	Yes	No

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THE NEW CARINA E

THE CAR IN FRONT IS A  TOYOTA

Press on probation as enquiry begins into self-regulation

BY MELINDA WITTSTOCK, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

THE government extended its probation period for the press by at least another six months yesterday by appointing Sir David Calcutt, QC, to carry out an independent assessment of the effectiveness of newspaper self-regulation.

Sir David, chairman of the government's original investigation of press standards and conduct in 1990, is to consider whether present arrangements for self-regulation should be modified or be made statutory. He will also look at whether any further measures are needed to deal with press intrusions into personal privacy.

David Mellor, the national heritage secretary, had been expected to allow newspapers to escape further scrutiny until newspaper revelations about the marriage of the Prince and Princess of Wales last month provoked a public outcry and led the Press Complaints Commission to rebuke certain newspapers for "prurient" and "odious" reporting.

Mr Mellor told the press in 1990 that it was "drinking in the last chance saloon". Just one week before the serialisation by *The Sunday Times* of the Andrew Morton book *Diana: Her True Story*, the commission was confident that the threat of direct government intervention had receded, citing as evidence in its annual report a decline in the number of complaints about press conduct and coverage and a willingness among editors not to repeat past errors.

Whitehall lawyers fear cuts

BY FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

MORE than 200 lawyers in the government legal service stand to lose their jobs if proposals to contract out sections of the civil service go ahead, the lawyers' union has said.

The First Division Association, which represents more than 90 per cent of government lawyers, says government plans to contract out a quarter of civil service jobs could mean the privatisation of prosecution work on such matters as health and safety and false social security claims, costing 225 jobs.

Loss of work would be a blow to the recruiting power of the government. Lawyers in the service accept far lower pay than private-sector colleagues. The trade-off is great diversity, with legal work coming from a range of government departments.

In an article in today's *Solicitors' Journal*, Robin Dacey, assistant secretary-general of the association, says the areas of work most at risk are "low-level prosecutions, including social security claims, VAT and conveyancing of government estates".

Government sources suggest that Mr Mellor is reluctant to introduce statutory press controls. However, controversy over royal reporting had forced him to seek an independent assessment. Sir David Calcutt will work alone and report early next year.

Yesterday, Mr Mellor told the Commons: "I believe that a further independent analysis based on recent experience of self-regulation will be of great assistance in determining the way forward in this difficult and sensitive area."

Lord McGregor of Durris, commission chairman, said he was grateful for Mr Mellor's "prompt and constructive decision concerning the assessment of the future of self-regulation of the press" and said he would ensure Sir David got all the information and assistance he needed from the commission.

He said the commission had demonstrated that self-regulation was working and that a law of privacy was "undesirable". "It would hand over the issue of the proper relationship between private rights and the public interest to lawyers," he said.

Peter Preston, editor of *The Guardian*, who yesterday became a member of the commission, replacing Max Hastings, editor of *The Daily Telegraph*, said that the appointment of Sir David was a disappointment but not surprising. "It means that all of us are on probation for another six, 12 or 18 months,

or perhaps indefinitely," he said. "All the doubt has arisen because of the last couple of months of royal stories, which have stirred up the controversy again. But apart from the royal story, the tabloids have been very mindful of the code of practice we agreed, and I hope that when David Calcutt examines all these stories in detail he will conclude the same thing."

Mr Preston said he thought the announcement would be followed by a great deal of thoughtfulness on the part of the press. He said that Sir David's original report had been an interesting and balanced document and he was sure the follow-up would be equally balanced.

Sir Louis Blom-Cooper, who chaired the Press Council, the commission's predecessor, said that the new enquiry was sensible but it was too early to judge whether the press was behaving better or worse under the commission.



Bearing up: Raymond Seitz, the US ambassador, and his wife Caroline part with a favourite soft toy at Stratford-upon-Avon's Teddy Bear Museum yesterday

Brother sacked from Longleat job

BY ALAN HAMILTON

THE new regime that runs the Longleat has sacrificed its first lamb. Lord Christopher Thynne, younger brother of the seventh Marquess of Bath, has been dismissed from his post as comptroller of the family's home and estate in Wiltshire.

Lord Bath, 60, who succeeded to the title on his father's death last week, was absent from Wednesday's meeting of Longleat trustees which removed his brother from day-to-day running of the estate in favour of Tim Moore, Lord Bath's personal agent. Lord Christopher may also lose his estate cottage.

In a terse statement yesterday, Mr Moore confirmed that the late Lord Bath's executors had asked him to take over the running of the estate and that Lord Christopher was no longer comptroller.

Lord Christopher, 57, admitted yesterday that he had "more or less got the rot" (assumed to be the local vernacular for a sack) but did not yet know if and when he would be evicted. In a recent interview, he predicted that he would be out on his ear when his elder brother, Alexander, succeeded to the mar-

quessate. Nonetheless, he was said by Longleat staff to be shattered after being summoned from his office to the trustees' meeting.

Lord Bath declined yesterday to discuss his brother's fate. "The trustees had been negotiating with Christopher and the important thing is that he should be happy with the negotiations. It is not for me to start negotiating."

Their father, who died of cancer aged 87, seemed to hold the view that the Bath children were a bit of a show. Two years ago, he remarked, with obvious sadness: "When I go, Christopher will be sacked. Alexander won't have him working for him." Lord Christopher stayed at home running the estate while his brother spent much of each year in St Tropez painting, writing an autobiography and being entertained by a succession of "wifelets".

Last week, Lord Bath said his younger brother had accused him of "holidaying" on the French Riviera while their father was dying. "I am never on holiday," he retorted angrily. "When I am in St Tropez, I work terribly hard."

AN OPEN LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF THE BRITISH RED CROSS

British Red Cross

National Headquarters
9 Grosvenor Crescent
London, SW1X 7EJ

ACTION FOR SOMALIA

Dear Times Reader

Somalia is being ravaged by - what has been called - the "worst humanitarian disaster in the world".

Today, I appeal personally for urgent funds to help the people of this 'forgotten' nation. Please spare a few minutes - to read why help is so critical.

Since late 1991 civil war has left thousands of innocent Somalis for dead. Families shelter from bullets in the empty shells of their homes. Many have fled in terror.

Tragically, the crisis is deepening. Famine has now taken grip. As I write, 3 million lives are at risk in Somalia. Parents cry out for food for their children.

Some take desperate measures. Muhammed Abdi kept his family alive by feeding them a stew made from the skin of a dead camel, found on the roadside.

Others can find NO food. Helpless mothers cling to their wasting children. You cannot tell the age of a child here. You are just relieved that he or she is still alive.

Thankfully MANY have been rescued from the brink of death. Because the Red Cross is in Somalia, braving bullets that have already killed three of our workers. We've opened 200 community kitchens in Mogadishu alone. 9 ships deliver food to 10 towns. And food is arriving via Mombasa, for central Somalia.

SADLY THIS IS NOT ENOUGH. The scale of the tragedy grows by the minute. Reports from Red Cross workers, like British nurse Pauline Dadds, show that the people of Mogadishu are in an appalling state of malnutrition - the legacy of months without food.

Today my task is to raise VITAL funds to buy MORE supplies. Every penny will help people like Pauline to save innocent lives. Food relief for a family like Muhammed Abdi's costs just £15 a month. £36 will feed one child for a WHOLE year.

We need your help to CONTINUE saving lives. Please give as generously as you can NOW. Lives depend on it.

Yours sincerely

Mike Whitlam

Mike Whitlam, Director-General

PS We rely on public donations. And millions of people rely on us. Currently the British Red Cross is working in 44 countries worldwide. From Cambodia to Yugoslavia. PLEASE HELP NOW.

TAKE ACTION FOR SOMALIA

YES, I want to help the Red Cross save lives. Here is my gift to help the latest victims of war and disaster. My cheque/Postal Order is enclosed (tick) ☐ for

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Please fill in this coupon then return it with your gift to: British Red Cross, FREEPOST, London SW1X 7ER. Registered Charity No. 220549

TO HELP THE VICTIMS OF WAR AND DISASTER NOW, CALL THE RED ALERT HOTLINE ON 071 235 3424

Judge tells councils to carry on

BY DAVID YOUNG

PEOPLE adversely affected by local authority decisions have no common law right to be consulted before such decisions are taken, a High Court judge ruled yesterday.

In a case involving residential homes in Devon and Co. Durham seeking a right to be consulted over closure plans, Mr Justice Popplewell said: "It would cause administrative chaos if, before any decision, those adversely affected were required to be consulted. Members of county and district councils are democratically elected and represent the views of their constituents. It is their responsibility to reflect those views."

He rejected applications for judicial review by residents of four council old peoples' homes who said they were unfairly and unlawfully denied a voice. He ruled that, in any event, judicial review was an inappropriate remedy in such cases as residents had a right to complain to the health secretary.

The residents of the homes and their relatives and supporters are considering whether to take their case to the Court of Appeal or to the health secretary.

What a European loves to hate

BY JOE JOSEPH

PROSPECTS for harmony within the European Community are at risk from millions of Europeans who cannot even bear to speak to the people next door, let alone get chummy with the folk they might meet in neighbouring countries.

If you are the sort of person who immediately invites your new neighbours round for an introductory drink, it is probably worth steering clear of Portugal, a new survey of 14 European countries shows. Half of all Portuguese turn their noses up if homosexuals move in next door and 19 per cent do not like Jews.

Britain ranks as the fifth least tolerant nation, after Portugal, Germany, Italy, and Belgium. The survey, carried out by the snappily titled European Value Systems Study Group and published in *The European*, finds Denmark to be the most tolerant. Perhaps Carlsberg dulls their anger with neighbours' faults.

Those who have always had doubts about statistegathering will not have their faith restored by the report's discovery that France is Europe's second most tolerant country. So tolerant, in fact, that the French find

nothing perturbing about buying stolen goods, claiming state handouts to which they are not entitled and driving off after smashing a parked car. As well as being pretty tolerant, France also tops the European list for civic immorality.

Drug addicts are the least popular neighbours: 60 per cent do not like them on the other side of the party wall. Heavy drinkers are spurned by 47 per cent. Prejudices persist: 28 per cent object to living next to homosexuals, 17 per cent to Muslims, 11 per cent to Hindus and 8 per cent to Jews.

Irish accept heavy drinkers but not Aids-sufferers. Dutch are the most welcoming to homosexuals. Danes to Jews and French to criminals. Belgium, home to the Ecu, scores highest for its antipathy to immigrants and Muslims. Germans are wary of extremists.

Older people and right-wingers are more likely to be intolerant about almost anything, even other aging right-wingers. To be safe, you would do best to move into a remote detached house in the middle of the countryside.

Leading article, page 15

Oil industry yard sheds 1,300 jobs in Highlands

By Ross Tieman, Industrial Correspondent

THE biggest private sector employer in the Highlands, the oil industry yard of McDermott-Scotland at Ardersier near Inverness, is to shed almost 1,300 jobs.

The American-owned firm said it had failed to win a vital order to build an accommodation platform to house more than 230 men working on the Claymore Bravo oilfield 110 miles northeast of Aberdeen. The workforce was said to be "shattered and stunned" after McDermott announced that it would need to shed more than half of its 2,500 strong workforce, with first redundancies taking effect next month.

Jimmy Gray, shop stewards' convener, said: "No one expected anything of this magnitude. In this industry we are used to peaks and troughs but this is the largest single pay-off in the history of UK onshore construction." More than 900 hourly-paid workers will lose their jobs, long with 80 salaried staff. About 200 people employed by sub-contractors will also become redundant.

Union leaders called for the trade and industry department to intervene to ensure equipment for the United Kingdom continental shelf was supplied from Britain.

Harry McLevy, regional officer of the Amalgamated Engineering and Electrical Union, said: "The government has got to do something about this. It cannot continue to sit back and wash its hands. The government either has no influence in the British sector of the oilfield, or it refuses to use its influence to help us."

Union officials will meet on Monday to decide their next move. Mr McLevy said they would apply "maximum pressure" to try to save the jobs.

Local council leaders are to seek an urgent meeting with

the energy minister, Tim Eggar, to express their concern.

Elf-Aquitaine, the French oil company that heads the consortium operating the Claymore Bravo field, said it had invited competing tenders to build an accommodation platform to house more than 230 men working on the oilfield. A spokesman would not say whether a contract had been awarded.

At present, the men are living on a floating accommodation unit alongside the production platform, which handles the output of the Claymore and Scaja fields and five smaller adjoining oil reserves.

Although Elf is the operator, its partners in the development are Texaco and Union Texas of the United States and the British group Lasso. The Elf spokesman said installation of a fixed accommodation platform would help further development of oil reserves in the Claymore area, and would also benefit safety on the field.

The Scottish TUC described the job losses as catastrophic. Richard Leonard, assistant secretary, said: "It is not enough to simply blame the invisible hand of the market. The British government is in charge of offshore licensing. It must take a share of the blame for failing to manage licensing rounds to avoid big peaks and troughs in orders."

The EC had been pushing for more North Sea work to go to yards in southern Europe, he said. Many of them, especially in Spain and Portugal, could undercut British yards by using cheap labour.

They also worked to much lower health and safety standards and were given financial aid by their governments.



Open to offers: Fasnacloch near Oban, one of 20 Scottish sporting estates on the market. Below: how game has risen in value

Shooting estates survive the slump

Scottish sporting estates have beaten the recession, writes Rachel Kelly. The secret of their success is not land, but stock

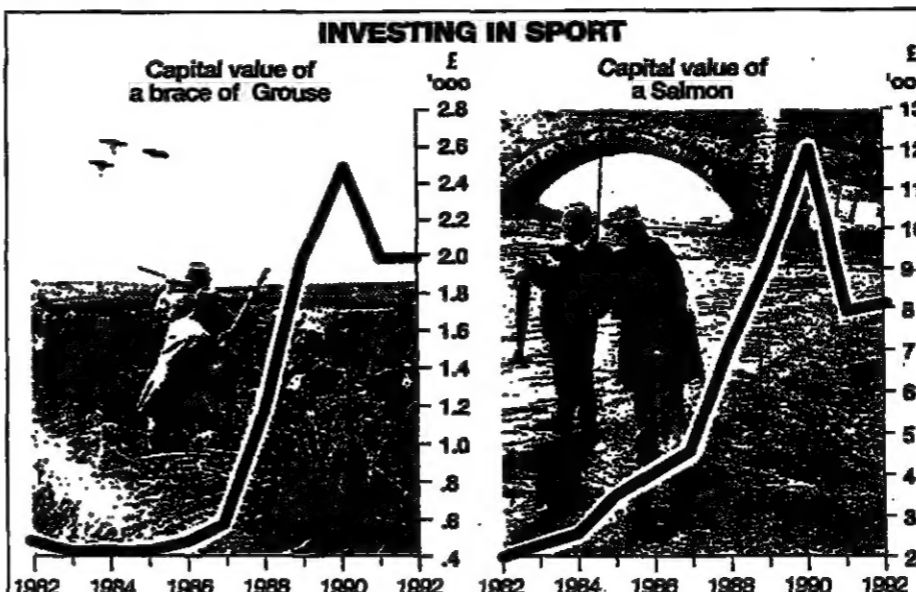
SPORTING estates providing salmon fishing and grouse shooting have proved the best investment in Scottish country property over the past decade.

Despite the worst slump in the market in most gamekeepers' memories and headlines about the number of properties up for sale, the capital value of Scottish estates has quadrupled over the past decade.

Price falls of 40 per cent over the past two years mask gains for grouse, stag and salmon (one way of valuing estates) over the decade as a whole, according to a survey by Bell-Ingram, one of the largest land surveyors in Scotland.

The capital value of grouse shooting has quadrupled from £500 in 1982 to about £2,000 a brace now. Values for stalking have increased from about £7,000 in 1982 to £15,000 a stag today. On the best rivers, values of £1,500-£2,000 a fish were achieved in 1982; now owners can expect £6,000-£8,000.

In contrast, Bell-Ingram estimates that good quality farm land has lost about 40 per cent of its value. Though country houses devoid of large estates have seen threefold rises, according to Colin Strang Steel at Knight Frank & Rutley's Scottish office, farm houses with land are now selling for the same



levels as in 1982. Forestry land and permanent pasture have seen falls of 23 per cent and 43 per cent respectively, Bell-Ingram says.

"Though there have been dramatic price falls recently in Scottish sporting estates, their essential rarity means

that over a longer period, such estates have outstripped other types of property," the firm says. "It is also true that transport is improving dramatically in the north of Scotland. These estates are getting more accessible, pushing prices up."

Game values are stabilising, and in the case of salmon fishing, edging up, despite the number of estates on the market. Of an estimated 500 sporting estates in Scotland larger than 5,000 acres, 20 are now up for sale.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Collision trawler's mate jailed

The mate of a fishing trawler that gashed the side of a supertanker, causing 1,100 tons of crude oil to pollute the Devon and Cornwall coast, was jailed yesterday. John McAlpine, 36, denied he was watching the 1990 FA Cup final on the wheelhouse television set.

The 25-metre Brixham-based trawler *Dionne Marie* collided with the 118,000-ton Japanese tanker *Rosamund*, whose skipper had twice altered course and twice sounded his siren. The oil escaped in 40 minutes through a metre-long split. A 17-day anti-pollution operation involving five ships and 16 aircraft cost £1 million.

McAlpine, of Brixham, Devon, who claimed he was on his hands and knees sweeping the bridge carpet while the craft was on autopilot, admitted endangering a ship or persons on board. He was sentenced at Exeter Crown Court to 12 months, half of which was suspended.

Condom first

What is believed to be the first publicly sited vending machine for condoms was unveiled at Nuneaton, Warwickshire. The council had repealed a 1949 by-law forbidding street contraceptive machines. The dispenser, similar to a canned drink machine, will be followed by others.

Rampton move

Five staff members at Rampton secure psychiatric hospital, Nottinghamshire, have been suspended over the death of a patient said to have had a heart attack. Police will send a report to the Director of Public Prosecutions within a month.

Sale record

A pair of George III mirrors with rare silver frames, supplied by Thomas Chippendale to Harewood House, West Yorkshire, for £40 in 1775, sold for a record £319,000 at Christie's, London.



The arrival of a new Alfa Romeo will always command attention. During its eighty year history the marque has repeatedly redefined what can be expected of a sporting saloon: scintillating performance, combined with handling poise, luxury and refinement. The new Alfa Romeo 155 fiercely upholds this tradition. Yet moves it on to new heights.

The 155 offers a choice of four engines, all mounted transversely for front wheel or four wheel drive: there are 129 bhp 1.8 and 143 bhp 2.0 Twin Sparks. The potent 2.5 V6 which Autocar & Motor describe as 'one of the finest engines in production'. And the giant-killing turbocharged 2.0 16 valve in the Cloverleaf 4 with four wheel drive. Naturally, every 155 delivers the performance you'd expect of an Alfa Romeo, from the 125 mph maximum (where permitted) of

the 1.8 to the 0-60 in 6.8 seconds and 140 mph top speed of the Cloverleaf 4.

Nor is it power without responsibility. All 155's are equipped with catalytic converters. And ABS is standard on the 2.0 Lusso and above.

EVERY INCH A LEGEND.

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الرياض 10

Church counsellors try to 'cure' gay and lesbian Christians

BY RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

INCREASING numbers of evangelicals are attempting to "heal" lesbian and gay Christians of their homosexuality, according to a television documentary to be broadcast on Sunday.

Lesbians and homosexuals who join evangelical or charismatic churches often find that their sexual orientation is at odds with the fundamentalist view of homosexuality as a sin. According to Joan Bakewell, presenter of BBC1's *Heart of the Matter*, many are turning to church-based counsellors, some of whom have no professional training and who often base their practice on the theory that homosexuality is caused by a faulty relationship with the parent of the same sex. Ms Bakewell questions whether, in seeking to "cure" homosexuality, such counsellors will not be doing more harm than good.

The Lesbian and Gay Christian Movement is to begin an enquiry into the phenomenon, known as the "ex-gay movement" and based mainly in non-affiliated evangelical and Baptist churches. The Rev Richard Kirker, general secretary of the movement, said that lesbian and homosexual Christians were being "targeted for conversion by Christian-inspired attempts to 'heal' or 'convert' them to heterosexuality". He added: "To coerce anyone to abstain from a sexual relationship, solely because of sexual orientation, leads to a profoundly distorted and incomplete life."

"Rather than offering true healing to the sexually confused or vulnerable, the ex-gay movement simply creates an illusion of false hope. People who are misled in this way are denied the chance of finding sexual wholeness and God's unconditional love. We

must warn of these dangers." *Heart of the Matter* describes the case of Simon Harvey, a homosexual Christian who committed suicide aged 27. After his death, his father, the Rev George Harvey, a Baptist from Ipswich, set up a counselling service to help men and women who want to be free of homosexuality. Mr Harvey says that there is every possibility that sexual orientation can be changed. "It is bringing a person out of a negative situation into a positive situation," he claims to have witnessed "the great deliverance only God can bring".

Martin Hallett, formerly a practising homosexual and now a counsellor, says: "I do believe that our ultimate authority in terms of understanding what God says on certain issues must come from the Bible and from our understanding of what the Bible says."

A biblical text used frequently by evangelicals when debating this issue is 1 Corinthians 6, where St Paul says that none who are guilty of homosexual perversion will possess the kingdom of God. Some refer to the Old Testament, which speaks of homosexuality as an abomination.

One former homosexual, now married with children, describes in the programme how Christian counselling helped him to give up a life of gay clubs, dressing in drag and picking up men in the street. Another, who tried counselling but remained homosexual, says that his counsellor hugged and kissed him on a couch and described the process as "dangerous". Those for whom it did not work might feel they lacked faith, or that God did not love them enough to make them heterosexual, he says.

Jeanette Howard, a former lesbian who runs a counselling service through her church, says: "My thoughts and my desires and orientation have changed, and that's been a by-product of me focusing on Jesus." Although she is now attracted to men, she says that she would not go so far as to flirt with them. "That's not really a Christian principle. I'm open to them as good friends. I'm certainly open to marriage."

The Church of England issued a statement last December, criticised by some homosexuals as confusing, which commends those who abstain from homosexual practice but does not condemn those in loving relationships. The Methodist church is due to debate homosexuality next summer.

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr George Carey, tells *Heart of the Matter*: "Enthusiastic amateur groups can, despite the best of intentions, cause a lot of damage."



Many happy returns: Dame Barbara Cartland with her son Ian McCorquodale, at her 91st birthday luncheon in London yesterday. Among the guests were Prince Michael of Kent. Diary, page 14

Bletchley Park fund launched

By Nigel Hawkes
SCIENCE EDITOR

THE government was yesterday urged to release Bletchley Park, the wartime code-breaking centre, for use as a museum of cryptography and the history of computing.

The call came at a reception in London to launch a £7 million appeal to save the Buckinghamshire site from demolition and to establish a museum commemorating breaking the Enigma cipher, the key to British success in the intelligence war.

Ted Enever, of the Bletchley Park Trust, said the aim was to develop a series of museums and turn the house into an hotel with a 1940s ambience. Most of code-breakers' huts are still intact.

At its height Bletchley Park employed 12,000 people, including some of Britain's most brilliant mathematicians. It was also where one of the first electronic computers, Colossus, was built to help in code-breaking.

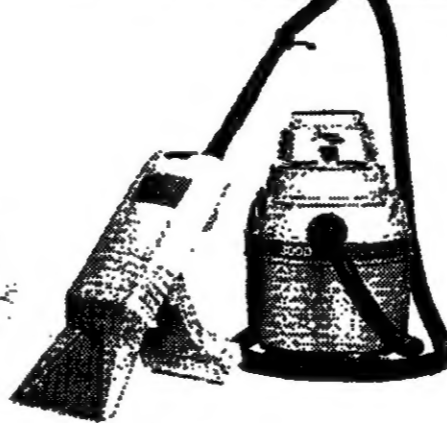
The site is occupied by the Civil Aviation Authority, BT and various government offices. Of these only the CAA intends to stay on.

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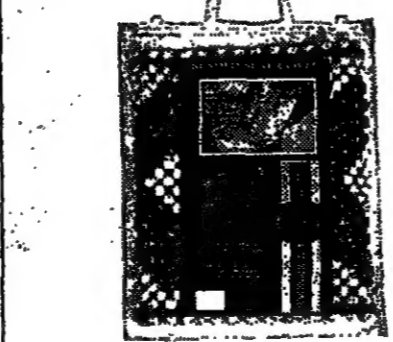
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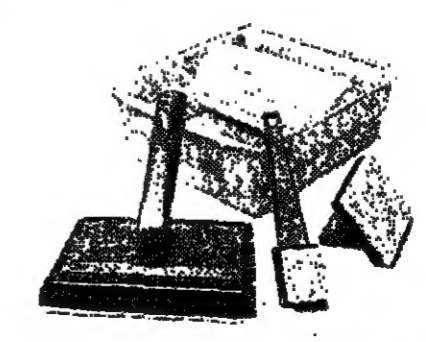
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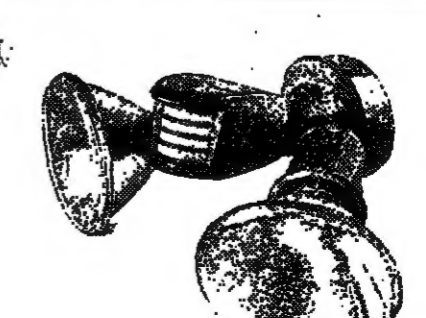
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Prisoners star in televised justice

TV cameras could cut manpower and costs in remand hearings. Richard Ford went to jail to view a pilot project

AS A convicted prisoner, Eben Gordon needed no rehearsal for the series of fictitious roles he adopted for television cameras yesterday.

At Norwich prison, where he is in the twelfth year of a life sentence, Mr Gordon portrayed Dan Shifty, a juvenile burglar, Jack Thumper, accused of assault, and Fred Biggs, charged with reckless driving, characters invented for an experiment involving five television links between a magistrates' court and a prison cell.

Mr Gordon was uneasy at the potential development in the criminal justice system that could result in remand prisoners being dealt with by the courts without leaving prison. "Many remand prisoners like to travel from prison to court and back again. It is a day out for them, a break from prison routine," he said.

The four-week scheme is designed to see if audio-visual techniques can be used to deal with remand prisoners, saving the money and manpower involved in escorting prisoners to and from magistrates' courts. Four convicted prisoners at Norwich adopt the roles of people remanded on charges ranging from the simplest to the most complicated offences, while magistrates, a court clerk and two solicitors at Great Yarmouth play their customary parts in simulated hearings. The experiment includes a confidential telephone link between the "defendant" and his solicitor to allow in case an accused wants to give instructions. Although Mr Gordon would prefer to be in court

for a remand hearing, other inmates involved in the experiment said such links would end hours of delay at magistrates' courts, where remand prisoners often had to share crowded cells. Norman Daglass, serving two years for burglary, said: "The remand hearing is often over in three minutes and then you have to wait until every other prisoner has been dealt with before leaving for the prison. It can take hours. With this link, you can come down and be back in your cell within a few minutes."

The project is being spearheaded in Norwich after a Norfolk police study in 1989 found that the equivalent of 28 police officers were engaged full-time in escort duties each day. Inspector Philip Jones, who studied similar television links in Dade County, Florida, and Toronto, Ontario, said that the idea offered huge savings and would allow police to concentrate on tackling crime.

A report on the pilot project will be sent to the Home Office and the Lord Chancellor's department later this year. Last night, a Home Office spokesman said that audio-visual links would be suitable only for certain local prisons.

The prospect of savings is certain to attract the attention of the Treasury. Savings, however, were the last thing worrying Mr Daglass. His next role was as Dick Rumpole, an alcoholic shoplifter. The name and a drink problem were not worrying him. But the fact that Rumpole was charged with stealing knickers from Marks & Spencer was a grave embarrassment.



Rehearsal: magistrates and prisoner on screen

Major cuts back on top people's rises

By NICHOLAS WOOD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

RECOMMENDED salary increases for Britain's most distinguished public servants were cut by more than £25,000 a head yesterday as the prime minister applied the pay brakes as part of his battle against inflation.

The Top Salaries Review Body said that Lord Taylor of Gosforth, the Lord Chief Justice, Sir Robin Butler, the cabinet secretary and the head of the home civil service, and Field Marshal Sir Richard Vincent, chief of the defence staff, should have their salaries increased from April 1 from £104,750 to £130,000.

The cabinet decided that the proposed increase of more than 24 per cent for the first flight should be cut to 4 per cent in the first instance. Their salaries will rise to £108,940 initially. From April next year they will get an extra 3 per cent, with 2.8 per cent coming in the following year, as a 9.8 per cent total increase is phased in over three years. Cost of living increases in the next two years will be on top of these figures.

The report from the review body covers 1,290 judges, 660 civil servants and 190 officers in the armed forces. Its recommendations would have pushed up the pay bill for this group by 19.7 per cent at a cost of £27.6 million. But the government has decided to cut the increase for all groups to 4 per cent against the background of the sluggish escape from the recession, tight private sector pay settlements and low inflation. The rise adds £5.6 million to the pay bill.

The review body, chaired by Sir David Nickson, the chairman of Hambros, the merchant bank, reports that its recommendations are based on the most detailed comparisons between the public and private sectors since 1985. It says that, with the agreement of the government, it decided to hold back its findings until after the "sensitive period" before the April general election.

The review body based its findings on independent earnings surveys of senior business executives, members

of the Bar and lawyers before their appointment to the judiciary. It also drew on studies carried out by Price Waterhouse and Hay Management Consultants, which examined pay levels in comparable private sector posts.

It says that it has not sought strict equivalence with the private sector and applied a "discount" reflecting the lower job security in business.

The review body found that senior public servants had fallen further behind their private sector counterparts over the past seven years. Real income of the so-called remit groups had increased by 7 per cent, compared with 22 per cent in the economy as a whole and more than 40 per cent among senior executives. The top 200 public servants covered by the review body had suffered a 3 per cent drop in comparison with their business counterparts.

Permanent secretaries, paid 74 per cent of the private sector rate in 1985, received only 45 per cent of the benchmark in March 1992. The cabinet secretary slipped



Passing sentence: the prime minister has put the brakes on pay rises for 1,290 judges, along with top civil servants and army officers

back from 72 per cent of his market rate in 1985 to 39 per cent in March 1992.

The review body says it has taken into account the country's economic circumstances and deploring efforts to manipulate the pay of senior public servants as part of a counter-inflation policy. It says that its recommendations have little to do with the

short-term and everything to do with the long-term quality and effectiveness of the public sector.

"The UK has had an enviable record of exceptionally able people at the most senior levels in the judiciary, the armed forces and the civil service. They are motivated by a sense of public duty and vocation, and sustained by

the interest they take in their work and the prestige of their roles.

"But pay must play a part. If those at the top were to become less than fully motivated, and recruitment of those of the necessary calibre became difficult once again as we move out of recession, then it would take years to recover the position."

	Existing salary £	Recomm'd rise £	Actual award £
Judiciary			
Lord Chief Justice of England	104,750	130,000	108,940
Lord of Appeal in Ordinary and Master of the Rolls	97,000	120,000	100,880
Lords Justices of Appeal and President of the Family Division	83,000	115,000	96,720
High Court Judges	84,250	100,000	87,620
Official Referees	73,250	88,000	78,180
Industrial Tribunal presidents, Judge Advocates-Genl, circuit judges (min)	61,600	74,000	64,064
(max)	61,600	74,000	67,564
Chairman of Industrial Tribunals and Magistrates	50,500	62,000	52,520
Senior Civil Servants			
Secretary of the Cabinet & Head of the Home Civil Service	104,750	130,000	108,940
Permanent Secretary to Treasury	98,000	120,000	101,820
Permanent Secretary	84,250	100,000	87,620
2nd Permanent Secretary	77,500	88,000	80,600
Deputy Secretary (minimum)	60,100	72,000	62,504
(maximum)	70,400	85,000	73,216
Under Secretary (London) minimum	48,300	58,000	51,272
maximum	57,000	68,000	59,280
Under Secretary (other) minimum	48,000	58,000	49,920
maximum	55,700	66,000	57,928
Senior Military			
Admiral of the Fleet, Field Marshal, Marshal of the RAF	104,750	130,000	108,940
Admiral, General, Air Chief Marshal	84,250	100,000	87,620
Vice Admiral, Lieutenant-General, Air Marshal	60,600	74,000	63,024
Rear Admiral, Major General, Air Vice-Marshal	53,000	63,000	55,120

Ministers face rebellion over MPs' allowance

By JILL SHERMAN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE government could face a revolt in the Commons next week after its decision to slash the review body recommendations on MPs' office allowances, saving the exchequer £5.5 million.

On Tuesday MPs will vote on the government's decision to throw out the review body's proposal that office cost allowances should rise by between 23.6 per cent to 40.2 per cent, taking the maximum allowance to between £37,360 to £42,360, on top of the 4.25 per cent annual uprating. The total extra cost would have been £8 million.

The prime minister has opted instead to increase the maximum allowance from £28,986 to £33,190, a 9.8 per cent rise on top of the annual uprating, costing an extra £2.5 million. The interests of the taxpayer had to be balanced against the needs of MPs, the government concluded. Ministers hope that they have given MPs enough to ward off a rebellion, but Labour and Tory MPs have been arguing for some time for a substantial rise in secretarial allowances.

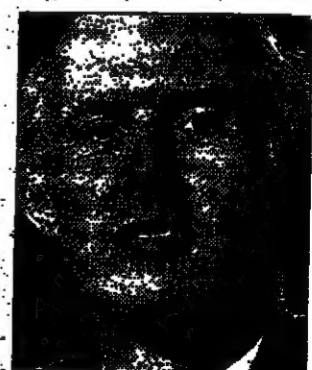
The prime minister has also overturned the review body's recommendation to split the office cost allowance into separate allowances for staff and equipment. The report suggests that MPs should have an allowance of £33,360 for two full-time staff instead of the present one and a half. All MPs need an experienced executive secretary, on a salary of about £18,000 to £20,000, and a constituency assistant or second secretary, on about £12,000 to £15,000 depending on experience. It says it also proposes a £4,000 allowance for general office expenses, a £5,000 one-off grant for computer equipment and bulk buying for equipment.

The report suggests a separate sum of £2,000 a year for MPs who are based in their constituency and the setting up of a personnel office to advise MPs and their staff on rates of pay and job specifications.

In its response, given in a written answer by Tony Newton, Leader of the House, the government dismisses most of these recommendations as impractical or too costly. It argues that splitting the office cost allowance would not improve accountability and would reduce MPs' flexibility. It also opposes setting up a separate constituency office allowance which would be difficult to assess.

Mr Newton said the case for central procurement of equipment needed further consideration and in the meantime it did not favour the introduction of a separate one-off grant for equipment. The government also rejects the idea of a separate personnel office, a proposal prompted by review body concerns about the employment conditions of MPs' staff.

The government has opted to retain the allowances as a single sum but to increase the maximum level. While accepting that £4,000 should be



Newton: fending off a revolt by MPs provided for general office expenses, it says that this should be part of the overall office allowance.

As if to add insult to injury, Mr Newton points out that at present an MP who joins or leaves the House part-way through a year is entitled to claim against the full year's allowance. He proposes that, from April 1, 1993, eligibility for the office allowance should be calculated on a quarterly basis.

Parliament rises for the summer recess next Thursday and returns on October 19.	all stages.
The main business in the House of Commons next week is expected to be:	Thursday: Summer adjournment debates.
Monday: Debate on the British Coal and British Rail (Transfer Proposals) bill, second reading.	The main business in the Lords is expected to be:
Tuesday: Debate on the enlargement of the European Community.	Monday: British Coal and British Rail (Transfer Proposals) bill, second reading.
Wednesday: Human Fertilisation and Embryology (Disclosure of Information) bill.	Tuesday: Debate on the enlargement of the European Community.
	Wednesday: Debate on the famine in Southern Africa.
	Thursday: Boundary Commissions bill, second reading.

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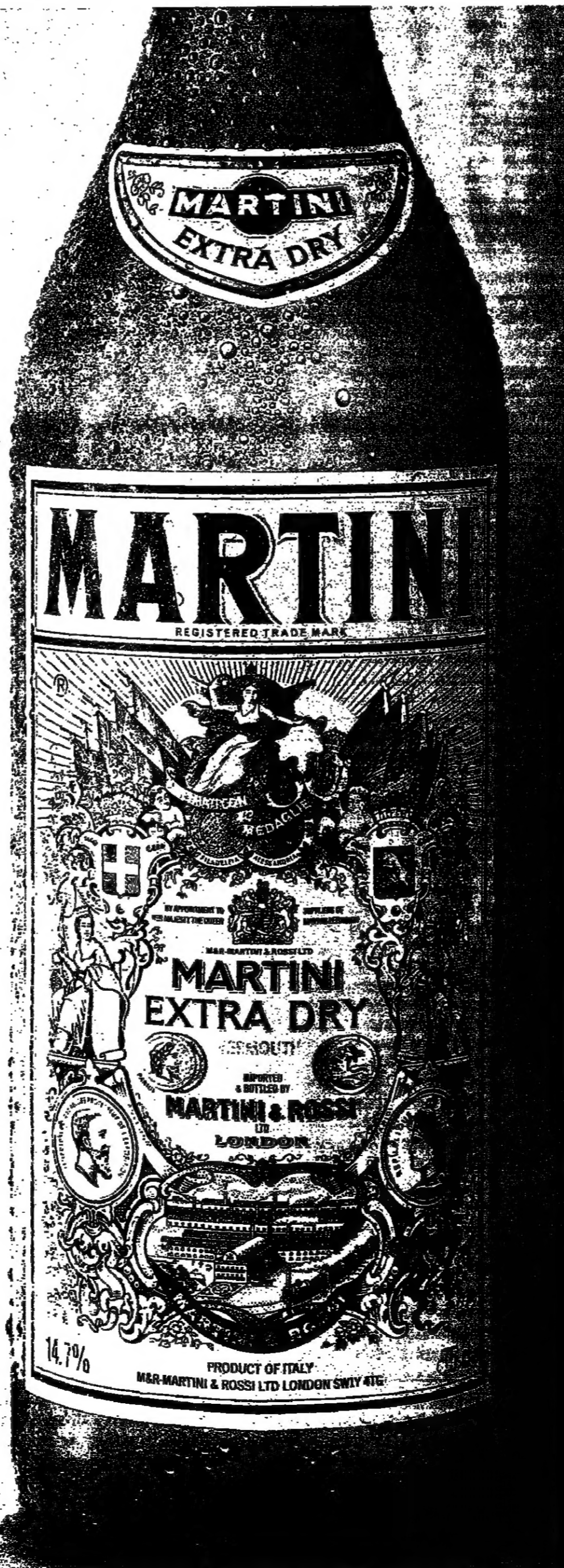
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THE TIMES FRIDAY JULY 10 1992

Lamont backs ERM in face of Tory calls for interest rate cut

BY PHILIP WEBSTER AND ARTHUR LEATHLEY

NORMAN Lamont yesterday mounted a sustained defence of the anti-inflation benefits of the European exchange rate mechanism in the face of renewed demands from Conservative MPs, supported by Baroness Thatcher, for cuts in interest rates.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer dismissed as "pure fool's gold" the idea that devaluing the pound within the ERM could assist the British economy.

Mr Lamont and his fellow Treasury ministers were repeatedly questioned about remarks attributed to Lady Thatcher, but later denied, suggesting that the pound should be revalued against the mark and that interest rates should be sharply cut. He was speaking in the Commons against the background of growing concern among Tory MPs about the slowness of the recovery and the constraints placed on the government by membership of the ERM.

The Chancellor said there were no "quick fixes" and, in an important policy speech tonight, he will underline the importance of the ERM in creating a long-term anti-inflationary framework in Britain. In an address to the European Policy Forum Mr Lamont will clearly rule out any prospect of withdrawal from the ERM.

MPs of all parties had seized on a report yesterday that Lady Thatcher, speaking privately to industrialists, had said that the economy was heading for a "financial acci-

dent" unless policies were changed. Her office later denied the remarks attributed to her, although she is known to have told friends of her belief that interest rates are too high. Speaking to David Frost on June 28, she called for a devaluation of sterling within the ERM and a reduction in interest rates.

Of the other reported remarks, her office said last night: "They are wild and bear no relation to what was said. When Lady Thatcher wants to make her views known, she does so clearly and publicly and not in this way."

Of more concern to the government are the calls from Tory MPs for interest rate cuts. The Commons was surprised by a demand from Sir Peter Tapsell, the MP for Lindsey East and long-time supporter of Michael Heseltine, that Britain should withdraw, at least temporarily, from the exchange rate mechanism.

He said during prime minister's questions: "Now that Germany has made it clear it intends to continue for a very long period in the maintenance of economic policies which are driving the rest of Europe from recession into slump, it is more than ever necessary for British ministers to show some resolution in protecting British industry."

"Since this country has been determining its money supply for several centuries, why do ministers find that they suddenly cannot do this themselves without having their hands held by a group of German bank clerks. Has the time not now come to leave the exchange rate mechanism, at least until such time that German interest rates have been lowered to a level compatible with the needs of the whole of the rest of Europe?"

Earlier, Mr Lamont had said: "The idea that, by depreciating the exchange rate, we will improve the economy is pure illusion, pure fool's gold." He insisted that Britain's current account would not be a constraint on growth. "The only way in

which we can increase our exports is by this country becoming more competitive." Leaving the ERM would place Britain at a disadvantage in competing with those countries which remained in.

Nicholas Winterton (Macclesfield) launched a scathing attack on government economic policy: "It is time this House and the government realised that the British economy is in a very serious state. Unemployment between now and the middle of next year is likely to rocket through three million. Unless the government reduces interest rates, they are going to compound the problems that face this country."

Tony Newton, Leader of the House, standing in for the prime minister who is in Helsinki, later emphasised that the British government, with support from all parts of the House, had accepted the disciplines of the ERM as an essential basis for British policies designed to keep down inflation.



Ridley: joined ranks with Baroness Thatcher

Ridley demands stand on 'bullying and blackmail'

BY SHEILA GUNN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

NICHOLAS Ridley challenged John Major yesterday to prove his ability to stand up to "bullying and blackmail" from the European Commission by rejecting the Maastricht treaty.

In a speech which came close to accusing the prime minister of lying over his interpretation of the treaty, the former cabinet minister joined ranks with Baroness Thatcher in demanding a referendum before ratification.

Lord Ridley, who resigned from the Thatcher government after his remarks about Germany's ambitions in Europe, told a seminar organised by the anti-EC Bruges Group that the Major government seemed determined to pile agony on agony by pressing ahead with ratification in spite of Denmark's "no" vote.

He said: "Surely the British prime minister should be giving the British electors what we well know they want? If he is not going to have a referendum, it is all the more important that he reflects the wishes of the people. A little less bullying by the whips would be welcome too."

If British voters were told

what the measures in Maastricht would cost them in extra taxes, he forecast that no more than one in ten would vote "yes". "But we are not going to be told this information, nor asked to vote. The reason why we are not is because the government knows they would lose that vote. If they don't accept that, let them try."

Lord Ridley criticised the impact and cost of the treaty's measures and the "peevish and small-minded" treatment of the Danes for opposing ratification. The prime minister knew the British people would never accept Maastricht, Lord Ridley said, which was why he negotiated the opt-out on a single currency and the social chapter.

"I believe the Maastricht opt-outs are hardly worth the paper they are written on... The Community has already brought the 48-hour week issue forward on health grounds." He predicted: "One day we will be told we have to join the single currency because our non-participation is illegal. I have no doubt."

He challenged the government to recognise that the

British people did not want to hand over control of the economy, industrial policy, health and safety laws, and foreign, defence and immigration policies. "Far from proving John Major's case that he is the arch decentraliser, to pursue this will show him up as one who is prepared to throw away the powers of Parliament so laboriously put together over the centuries."

"It is monstrous to refuse to accept the verdict of democracy. Yet that is what is actually happening. Every one of the 11 is pushing forward with ratification; ratification of a dead treaty." He said Helmut Kohl — the target of his comments in the *Spectator* interview which provoked his resignation from the Thatcher government — appeared to have failed to understand that Denmark had vetoed the treaty.

Those who wanted to punish the Danes showed a frightening insight into the way the Euro-fanatic mind worked, he said. But EC membership could only be taken away from Denmark by force majeure. "I hope the Euro-fanatics are not contemplating that."

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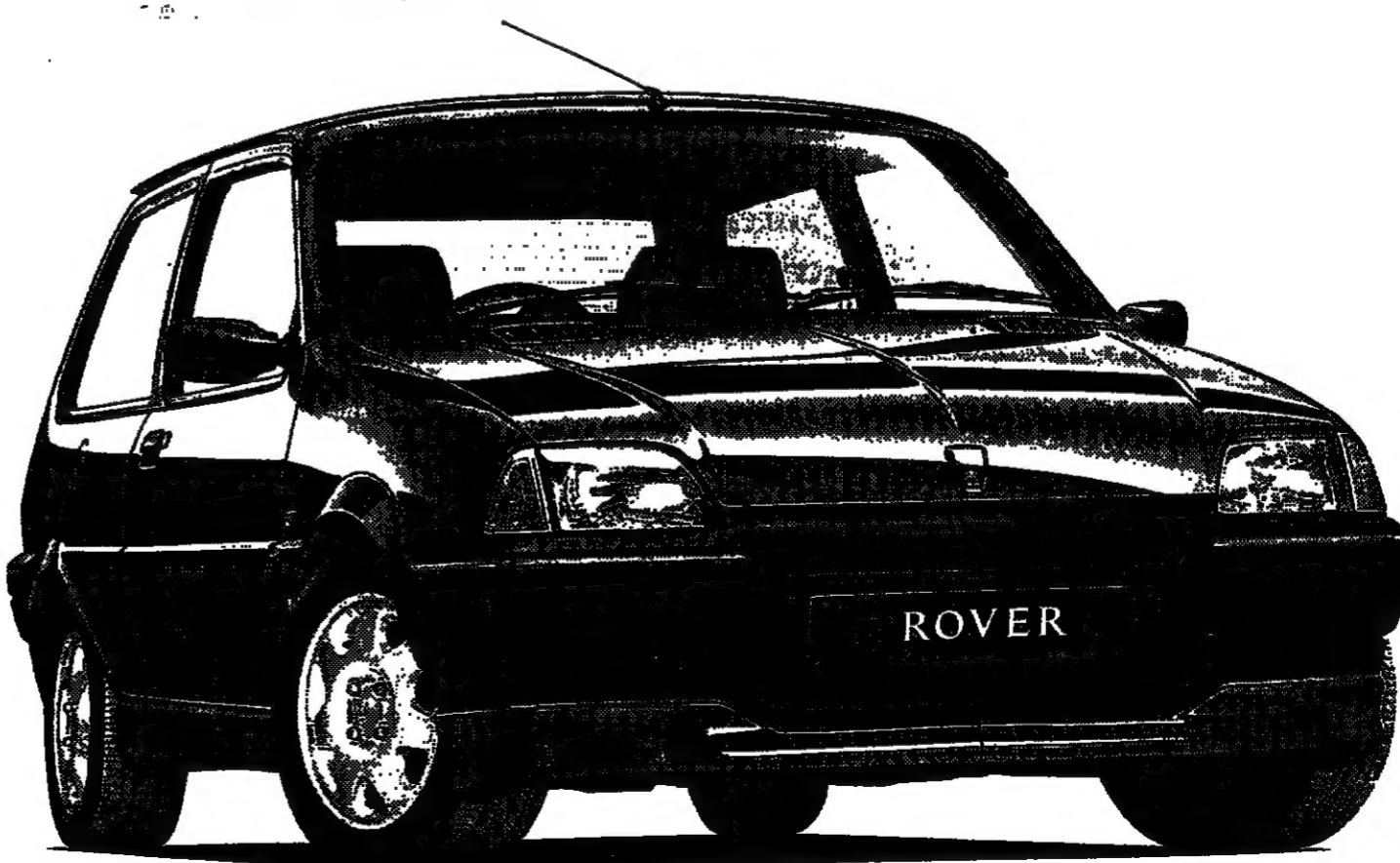
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Diary, page 14



Race law charges ruled out

David Irving, the historian, is not to be prosecuted under the Race Relations Act over his claims about the Holocaust. Sir Nicholas Lyell, the attorney-general, said in a written reply.

Mr Irving claimed that the gas chambers used by the Nazis to exterminate Jews were a propaganda invention. Glenda Jackson (Hampstead and Highgate, Lab) had asked whether proceedings were being considered over "the organisation of revisionist seminars describing the Holocaust as a liberal myth".

New peers

Norman Tebbit, the former Tory cabinet minister and party chairman, was introduced in the Lords as Lord Tebbit of Chingford. Denis Howell, Labour's sports minister and minister for the 1976 drought, was introduced as Lord Howell of Aston Manor.

Recall likely

MPs will be called back from their long summer break if the situation in the former state of Yugoslavia requires it, Tony Newton, the leader of the House, said. Tony Benn (Chesterfield, Lab) had asked for a recall if British forces or bases are used.

Lottery talks

Some 231 organisations and individuals have made submissions to the government about the national lottery. David Mellor, the heritage minister, said in a written reply. Discussions will continue over the next few months and legislation will be introduced in due course.

Parliament today

Commons (9.30): Debate on backbench motion on imports and disposal of toxic wastes in Wales.

MP takes row with whips to the top

BY SHEILA GUNN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

JOHN Major became ensnared yesterday in the row about the independence of Commons select committees after Conservative whips gagged one of their most outspoken MPs, Nicholas Winterton.

Mr Winterton, the MP for Macclesfield, wrote to the prime minister asking for a meeting to discuss the refusal of whips and the selection committee to nominate him for the health committee, which he served on for 13 years and chaired in the last parliament. He also disclosed to journalists the assurances given to him privately by Mr Major last year about the independence of the 16 cross-party committees.

Yesterday the selection committee published full lists of MPs picked to serve on select committees. No women have been chosen for some of the key committees.

The bad blood between Mr Winterton and Richard Ryder, the government chief whip, dates from Mr Winterton's disobedience of the "whip" in voting against the government's health service reforms.

Mr Major wrote to Mr Winterton on February 21, 1991: "I was grateful to you for letting me know the terms in which you propose to conduct the chairmanship of the health select committee. I have no doubt that you will bring your own skill, knowledge and commitment to that task and that you will do it excellently."

In a second letter on March 11, 1991, he wrote: "Every member of a select committee is free to vote for the person of his or her choice if a vacancy arises for the chairmanship. That has always been the case and will continue to be so."

The words in italics were underlined by Mr Major.

Mr Winterton takes his fight to the Commons next Monday when MPs will be asked to sanction the nominations.

Heads insist schools are opting out for extra money

By JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

SCHOOLS are being attracted to opting out mainly by the government's financial incentives and not because they are dissatisfied with local authorities, the National Association of Head Teachers said yesterday.

The association's survey of the impact of schools' responsibility for their own budgets showed that almost 75 per cent of heads were satisfied with services provided by local authorities. Few wanted more responsibilities to be delegated to schools.

David Hart, the association's general secretary, said: "It is obvious from the survey that if schools are contemplating going grant maintained, the biggest attraction is cash. If ministers think it is, or should be, philosophy or the need to get out from under the local authority's skirts, that may be a factor for some schools, but most are doing it for cash."

Pressure for more financial delegation was coming from small blocks of secondary schools, which were weighing up the advantages of opting out, Mr Hart said. In Waltham Forest, east London, secondary heads had demanded the delegation of 98 per cent of the schools' budgets if they were not to support opting out.

Academics from Birmingham University, who conducted the research among 800 schools, found that local management of schools had contributed to larger classes and forced schools to spend more on administration. But there was no agreement over the system's effect on the quality of learning.

Head teachers spent an extra eight hours a week on management tasks, leaving most feeling more remote from classroom issues. Two-thirds said the switch from

local authority control of spending had brought "unacceptable pressures" and increased workloads. But only one in seven heads wanted a return to the old system.

Eric Forth, the schools minister, said it was clear that local management brought extra workload, but that was offset by the advantages of local decision-making and greater flexibility.

The study showed schools were employing more teachers on temporary contracts as they tried to cope with greater fluctuations in funding each year. Up to one in six primary schools found most of their cash for books was wiped out because funding was cut when fewer children enrolled.

Dr Thomas said that authorities might have to find ways of cushioning the effects of changes in pupil numbers, which were already larger than expected and might become more dramatic as competition between schools increased. A third of primary schools and almost a quarter of secondary schools had experienced significant changes in enrolments last year.

Head teachers confirmed that millions of pounds remained unspent as schools budgeted cautiously in the early years of the new system. Only one in six had planned to underspend, but almost nine out of ten had done so.

Large schools had benefited most from local management. Dr Thomas said that the system had been designed to reward popular schools, but ministers should consider whether it was right to reward size for its own sake.

Mr Hart said: "The evidence tells us that higher standards will depend on the quality of teaching in the classroom." Extra administration left heads with less time to monitor their schools.

Canal users campaign to stop fee rises

Craig Seton reports that British Waterways is being accused of greed in its efforts to raise extra revenue

A DISPUTE involving a pretty canal-side pub is being highlighted by canal users in a campaign to show that British Waterways has adopted an abrasively commercial approach to the 2,000 miles of routes it manages.

Elsie Gilkes, owner of the Willemoor Lock Tavern, near Whitechurch, Shropshire, has paid British Waterways a £50-a-year licence fee for a steel footbridge that she built over the Llangollen canal nine years ago to take customers from her car park to the pub. British Waterways had said that, from next month, the fee should increase to between £7,500 and £10,000, to take account of the benefit to the pub's business.

Boatyard owners and barge hire operators claim that British Waterways is trying to force them to pay extortionate rents for land, and organisations representing canal users say that the body is autocratic in its efforts to raise extra money. Some have claimed that the new mood signals the privatisation of inland waterways, which has been denied by the government and by British Waterways.

Mrs Gilkes, a widow aged 63, who has owned her pub for 14 years, said that if she accepted British Waterways' scale of inflation she would have to charge £200 for a pint of beer.

"I would rather take the bridge down than pay that amount. I paid for the bridge and maintain it, but they think I am making a fortune. Only 5 per cent of my business comes from passing canal barges."

British Waterways has now offered her an agreement at the old rate, but she is refusing to sign, claiming that it will try to impose the higher rate again next year.

Simoda, a canal boat hire company operating 14 barges on the Shropshire Union canal at Nantwich,



Defending a bridgehead: Elsie Gilkes has fought off British Waterways, but victory may be short-lived

Cheshire, said that British Waterways wanted to increase the £4,000-a-year rent for the land it leased to £15,000, including two years' backdating. Joan Jordan, the manager, said: "British Waterways said it would be able to rent our moorings to private boats if we were not here and that they would have to charge us accordingly. We already pay it over £800 a year for licensing each of our boats. We will fight it every inch of the way."

Colin Hill, 59, a boatyard operator on the Llangollen canal at Welsh Frankton, near Ellesmere, Shropshire, said that British Waterways wanted 50 per cent of the mooring fee for boats moored alongside two fields he had bought from a farmer. He said that the payments could cost him more

than £2,000 a year. "They are bullying and frightening people into making agreements."

Nigel Stevens, chairman of the Association of Pleasure Craft Operators and who runs Shire Cruisers at Sowerby Bridge, West Yorkshire, said: "British Waterways have a monopoly position that they use to screw more money out of people. I think it is exploring every opportunity to see how far it can go. We believe they have already gone beyond the brink."

Some worried operators have joined a new body, the Consortium of Waterways Freeholders, which is concerned that a private bill going through Parliament on behalf of British Waterways will reduce the rights they say were granted to canal-side freeholders under

enabling legislation going back 200 years.

British Waterways receives about £50 million a year in government grants, representing more than 60 per cent of its total income of £78 million in 1990-1. It says that Whitehall aid is being cut in real terms and it has to be more commercial to raise income. It was criticised recently for a £1.7 million sale of canal-side land and property, including lock-keepers' cottages.

Harriet Hudson, manager of the Llangollen canal, admitted that feathers were being ruffled, but denied that British Waterways was greedy. She said that surveys had made a commercial evaluation of the Willemoor Lock pub but, since Mrs Gilkes had supplied new information, she was now being asked only

for the original £50 fee, for the next year at least.

Graham Avery, of British Waterways, said that it had drawn up a business strategy as the government was less inclined to put money into public services. "Unfortunately, there are some people who see us as money-grabbing, but the number jumping up and down is very small, although highly vocal."

Managers in the 27 waterways areas had been given devolved powers to draw up their own business plans, he said. The canal system provided benefits for its users, and private operators were of benefit to British Waterways in generating income. "We have been leasing out some land for ridiculously low rents. We are trying to be fair to them and we want them to be fair to us."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Rottweiler attacked MP's dog

A woman whose rottweiler menaced Andrew Bowden, the Tory MP for Brighton Kemptown, as he took his three West Highland terriers for a walk was ordered to keep the animal under control yesterday.

The rottweiler, called Dillinger after the American gangster, ran up to the MP in a Brighton park and seized one of his pets by the throat when it tried to defend him. Andrea Bumerstone, 28, of Brighton, who was summoned for failing to keep a dangerous dog under control, was told by Brighton magistrates that if it caused trouble again it would be put down.

Twyford jailing

Julienne McBride, 43, of Southampton, became the first Twyford Down protester to be jailed when she refused to be bound over to keep the peace at Winchester magistrates' court. The mother of four, who tried to obstruct bulldozers at the M3 site, was sent to Holloway prison, north London, until she agrees to be of good behaviour.

Cliff accident

Karen Buchan, 29, of New Milton, Hampshire, is in intensive care with neck and spinal injuries after her parked sports car fell 50ft from a cliff top. Police said: "We believe the car tumbled off the edge of the cliff purely by accident."

Church theft

Seven unused marriage certificates stolen from a United Reformed church at Newbury, Berkshire, may be used to help introduce illegal immigrants into Britain, said the Rev David Bunnay.

Wind farm

Ten farmers and a Danish energy company announced plans for a 200-acre wind farm, using 56 wind turbines, near to Hinkley Point nuclear power station, at Steart, Somerset.



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Warning by Peking overshadows pomp as Patten is sworn in

FROM JOANNA PITMAN IN HONG KONG AND CATHERINE SAMPSON IN PEKING

THE welcoming ceremony of Hong Kong's 28th governor yesterday was an unashamedly traditional exhibition of British imperialism. It was a day of ramrod salutes, red carpets, shouting sergeant majors and judges in wigs. The massed bands of the Gurkha Rifles played, there was a 17-gun salute and a flypast. Swords, white gloves and immaculate pith helmets were all out of their boxes, and rows of uniforms exhibited razor-sharp creases.

But Chris Patten, the last "His Excellency" to be cheered ashore, defied convention, resolutely refusing to play the fancy uniforms game. Unlike his predecessor, Lord Wilson, who sailed away last month in the crisp white twill suit and plumed helmet of convention, Mr Patten ambled ashore looking hot and rather shambolic in a drab grey suit. Alighting gingerly from his new yacht, *The Lady Mairine*, Mr Patten stepped up on to a

red-carpeted podium as *The Duke Of York March* was played, and, perhaps uncertain of protocol, made a half-hearted stab at standing to attention and nodding his uncertain approval of the guard of honour. Lavender Patten coolly observed her husband perform his unfamiliar duties, and their two daughters, Alice, 13, and Laura, 17, tossed furtive glances at each other.

Dozens of Chinese children had been waiting for hours for a glimpse of Mr Patten, and by the time he arrived a crowd of several thousand had gathered to cheer.

Inside the city hall, Mr Patten delivered a maiden speech, couched in generalities. "I pledge to devote all my energy to representing the interests of the people of Hong Kong as strongly and wisely as I can. I will stand up for Hong Kong as you would wish me to do, courteously and firmly. Good co-operation with China is my sincere aim and my



New boy: Chris Patten, taking the oath as Governor of Hong Kong yesterday, watched by his wife Lavender, behind him, and their daughter Laura. The oath was administered by Chief Justice TI Liang-yan

Prisoners benefit in new South Africa's acceptance of reform

The signs of change have reached the jail where Verwoerd's killer is still being held, writes Michael Hamlyn from Pretoria

The man who killed Hendrik Verwoerd in 1966, Deneiros Tshepo, is now a deaf old man. He sits in the hospital in Pretoria jail and contemplates the changes that the new South Africa has brought, even to life in prison.

Under the terms agreed for my visit to the prison, I may not report anything he said, but the jail environment, the people and the attitudes are plainly different from when he first stepped behind the prison walls 25 years ago.

To begin with, Pretoria local jail, where he is held, part of a huge prison campus on the outskirts of the nation's capital, used to be the black jail. White prisoners were kept in Pretoria Central, a Victorian-style fortress of brown stone built in 1907 that looks much like Holloway or Fentonville.

Now the local jail is mainly black. White prisoners under trial, wearing their own clothes, are kept there, together with a sprinkling of convicted whites who prefer perhaps to be kept with their criminal associates.

Black prisoners now have the same food as whites — pork chops, vegetables and mescal porridge on the day of our visit — and have access to much the same kind of services. But it is clear that those services are still essentially geared towards the white prisoners. The prison psychiatrist and the chief social worker both admitted that their training had not so far fitted them for dealing with the cultural differences between white and black prisoners. Both said that progress was being made.

The black prisoners are kept mainly in dormitories with 20 to 40 bunk beds. The doors are kept locked. Under such circumstances it is not surprising that gangsterism, drug abuse and huggery thrive. "Ask about the gang leaders who are rewarded by the wardens for their co-operation by being put next to young boys in their cells," said a former prisoner from Pre-

toria jail whom I consulted for information about prison life. The colonel in charge of the local prison said: "We do not deny that gangs are a problem. But wherever we find gang leaders we try to isolate them. They may arrange their beds where they like within their cells, but we would by no means be a party to that. The gang leaders are of no help to us. Quite the reverse."

Drugs, too, can be a problem. "An addict can always find drugs," one officer said. It is evident that drugs (marijuana and heroin) are still a problem in the prison, but the warders would also benefit British investors in Hong Kong and smooth the path to a "glorious withdrawal in 1997".

Mr Patten's arrival comes at a time when co-operation between Britain and China on matters relating to Hong Kong is strained. On Monday, senior officials from both countries concluded a disastrous three days of talks in Peking aimed at resolving the dispute over Hong Kong's plans to build a new airport. In public, China says it is worried that the project might drain the government's coffers before 1997, but British officials believe Peking is refusing to approve the financing arrangements until it is sure that Mr Patten will not try to speed up the pace of democratic reform in Hong Kong.



Soames: Patten should not follow his example

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Rare turtle wins by a sore head

FROM MICHAEL THEODOULOU IN NICOSIA

A BRAIN surgeon in Cyprus, used to operating on politicians, lawyers and businessmen, has performed a rare operation on a loggerhead turtle that was found with its skull apparently smashed by fishermen.

The turtle, one of an endangered species, was taken to the casualty ward at Nicosia General Hospital on Tuesday where, within half an hour, Dr Nicos Spanos fitted it with an acrylic plate.

The British-trained neurosurgeon went to work on the synthetic headpiece with all his considerable skill. The crusty brown toupée blends perfectly with the loggerhead's gnarled face and body.

"I had to remove some bones from a depressed fracture and cover the hole in its head with special acrylic," Dr Spanos said yesterday. "It was fun." The lucky loggerhead, dubbed Tina Turtle by some journalists, looked less amused yesterday and still appeared to be suffering from a splitting headache. It was recuperating in a bathroom at the fisheries department in Nicosia.

Andreas Demetropoulos, the department's director, who also runs a turtle station at Lara Bay on the wild Akamas coast of western Cyprus, said of the lucky turtle: "It is doing well. I thought we had lost her when she was on the operating table."

Amnesty says rights pacts breached by state violence

BY DAVID WATTS, DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

WORLD governments are breeding contempt for human rights by letting their security forces get away with murder, torture and abduction, the annual report of Amnesty International says. Although a growing number of governments have said they will stand up for human rights, they all too often fail to take action on past violations, it says.

"As long as the torturers, the state assassins and those who give the orders act with a free hand and without fear of punishment, the cycle of violations will never be broken," David Bull, director of the British section of the human rights organisation, said.

The report, covering 142 countries, said prisoners were tortured by governments in more than 100 states, people "disappeared" in 26 countries and extra-judicial executions were carried out in 45. "Paying lip service to human rights in new laws and international declarations achieves nothing if in the end governments do not act on violations," Amnesty said.

It said democratic revolutions in Eastern Europe, the former Soviet Union and Africa had ended some entrenched patterns of human rights abuses, notably in Zambia, Ethiopia, Albania and Lithuania. The scale of the changes was reflected in a rise in Amnesty members in Eastern Europe from a handful of surreptitious campaigners to more than 1,500 people last year. Improvements in some areas were marred by inter-ethnic rivalry and war, particularly in Yugoslavia, where all sides had been involved in torture and mass killing of civilians. There was still no serious attempt at accountability in some countries, Amnesty said, citing Iraq, Burma and China as examples.

Gross violations detailed in the 1991 survey include:

- The extra-judicial execution of 1,000 or more people in Burundi against a backdrop of ethnic tension.
- The mass "disappearances" and extra-judicial executions in Iraq and Kuwait after the Gulf war.
- The "disappearance" of at least 360 people in Peru.
- The execution of at least 1,000 people in China.

Amnesty, which opposes the death penalty, expressed particular concern about the increase in state executions in the United States. Nineteen people were executed between January and May 1992, compared with 14 in the whole of last year, and four states had resumed executions after more than 20 years.

Arafat's wife is reported pregnant

The Palestinian revolution will soon have an heir, according to an Egyptian newspaper, which claims that Yasir Arafat's young bride is pregnant. The semi-official weekly *Rose el-Yusuf* based its claim on the fact that Suha Arafat, 30, has put on weight and is walking a little awkwardly.

FLO officials, tired of the nudging and winking caused by their leader's marriage to an attractive woman less than half his age, refused to confirm or deny the report. Asked if there would be an announcement from PLO headquarters in Tunis, an official said: "Don't expect one. We don't work like Buckingham Palace." Mr Arafat, 62, married Suha, the daughter of the prominent West Bank journalist and poet Raymond Tawil, in a secret ceremony in Tunis last November.

The United Nations cultural agency, Unesco, said it would award its annual Peace Education Award to Mother Teresa of Calcutta to "crown a life entirely consecrated to the service of the poor, to the promotion of peace and to combating injustice".

The outgoing Ecuador president, Rodrigo Borja, 57, has suffered a serious heart problem and was travelling to San Antonio in Texas for treatment last night.

The Cuban president, Fidel Castro, is to attend the second summit of Iberian-American heads of state in Madrid on July 23-24, official Spanish sources said.

The former Zambian president, Kenneth Kaunda, who had refused to give up the leadership of his party after its heavy defeat in elections last year, has agreed to quit next month, after a closed meeting of the United National Independence Party's central committee.

Mike Tyson's attorney has filed a court petition seeking a new trial for the former heavyweight boxing champion, claiming that Desiree Washington's main motive for accusing him of rape was financial gain, according to television and newspaper reports.

The renowned Australian baller dancer Kelvin Coe, 45, has died in Melbourne of an AIDS-related illness, the Australian Ballet said.

Battle begins to save drought-stricken wildlife

FROM LAWRENCE BARTLETT IN HARARE

LORRYLOADS of hippopotamuses, elephants and buffaloes are taking to Zimbabwe's roads in an operation to save them from death from drought in the Gonarezhou national park. Others less fortunate, including 2,000 elephants, will be shot so that the little food and water in the park will see the survivors through to the next rainy season. "Gonarezhou is an ecological disaster area," Colin Saunders, co-ordinator of a committee running the operation, said. "It is littered with carcasses."

The park, on Zimbabwe's southern border with Mozambique, covers 12 million acres and is the second largest in the country. It has

been devastated by the worst drought this century, leaving the 100 or so surviving hippos unable to submerge in the few remaining watering holes unless they fold their legs. Some of the animals are to be taken to private ranches with water. Some will be fed through dry winter months and others will be shot. Several hundred have died, Mr Saunders said.

The rescue operation is being carried out by the government's national parks and wildlife management department and a team of conservationists. Buffaloes are being taken up to 600 miles across the country to a safari area near Victoria Falls on the north-western border with Zambia, which has had better rains. Elephants are more

difficult to deal with. At least 2,000 of them will have to be killed, Mr Saunders said. That would leave about 4,000 in the park. Some, particularly calves, will be moved out of Gonarezhou to more secure ranges, with the hope that they can be returned to the park when the rains have revived the veld. Sable, zebra, waterbuck and

wildebeest will also be captured and moved, as will about 40 of the rare Lichtenstein's hartebeest. About 5,000 impala, a small antelope, will be shot. All meat from the culling will be distributed free to the people living near the park, whose crops and cattle have also been hit by the drought. The park has been closed to the public. "We are looking at long-term rehabilitation," Mr Saunders said. "Two years of good rains should see improvement."

For Zimbabwe's conservationists, drought is part of a two-pronged onslaught against the country's wildlife. Already under way is an operation to save the world's largest remaining herd of about 1,000 black rhinoceroses by cutting off their horns, thus cheating poachers



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Bosnian conflict widens as Helsinki summit tackles ills left by communism

UN fears that Croat attack will threaten Sarajevo aid

FROM TIM JUDAH AND DESSA TREVISAN IN BELGRADE

UNITED Nations officials co-ordinating the international relief airbridge to Sarajevo fear that a combined Bosnian government and Croat offensive may be in the offing to break the three-month siege of the city.

Large movements of troops and supplies have been seen to the west of Sarajevo and UN officials indicated that overnight shelling of Serbian positions came from artillery that was "possibly Croatian".

Bosnian Croat forces are believed to be on Mount Igman, within artillery range of Sarajevo, and small Croat units are operating in the city. Up to 50 lorries with troops and supplies have been seen moving to the west of the city in the past few days and at least one Serb position five miles to the south has been taken by soldiers presumed to be Croats. "They are very close," said one official.

It is unknown whether the Croats encroaching on the Serb ring around Sarajevo are all from the Bosnian Croats' army or loyal to the government in Sarajevo because of the profusion of armies and militias fighting in Bosnia. "The military situation is precarious," said Fred Eckhard, a UN spokesman. "The relief operation we are carrying out is terribly fragile as a result."

General Lewis MacKenzie, the chief of UN operations in the city, has said that he has received assurances that there are no plans to break the siege. However, Jerko Doko, Bosnia's defence minister who is a Croat, was reported yesterday to have said that "defending the independence of Bosnia is more important than humanitarian relief".

Under the agreement Bosnian and Serb artillery positions around Sarajevo airport have been placed under UN observation. Mr Eckhard said that on Wednesday night "we received calls from the Serbian side saying they were under attack". He said this message was relayed to the Bosnian presidency and that when the attacks did not stop the Serbs shelled Sarajevo's old city.

Mr Eckhard said: "Given the persistence of reports of the presence of Croatian forces in the area and our observation of firing on Serb positions from the southwest, we have to consider the possibility that there could be third party sources of shelling, possibly Croatian."

While Sarajevo is almost entirely surrounded by Serb forces, recent Croat successes mean that the military situation has begun to change. To the west and southwest the Serb ring around Sarajevo is itself surrounded.

UN officials fear that if the Croat and Bosnian forces decide on an offensive, their humanitarian airbridge will collapse because the Serbs are sandwiched between Bosnian troops inside the city and Croats outside.

The Bosnian war is one of shifting enmities and alliances. While Muslims and Croats appear to be co-operating around Sarajevo, there are several reports of clashes between them. Last week Croat nationalists followed Bosnian Serbs and declared virtual secession from Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Overnight three mortar shells landed in the UN's Sarajevo headquarters car park, damaging several cars. "It was a pretty bad night," Mr Eckhard said. "I slept with a helmet on and a flask jacket over my pyjamas."

Despite the fighting, relief continues. Yesterday aid reached the suburb of Butmir. "Children clapped, old people cried and others gave the UN soldiers flowers," said Fabrizio Hochschild, of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees.

Meanwhile, the Serb parliament passed draconian measures to combat the effects of sanctions.

While parliament was in session, thousands of striking students marched past.

Bush plea, page 1

US reluctance, page 14



Helsinki humour: President Bush enjoying President Yeltsin's company at the summit yesterday after the two leaders arrived from Munich

Fears for safety of troops

BY MICHAEL EVANS
DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

SENDING in the military to deal with one or other aspect of the Yugoslav conflict, whether to protect humanitarian aid supplies or to help enforce United Nations sanctions, has become so ad hoc that the victims of the civil war must be wondering how the nations of the great Western alliances ever succeeded in mounting any joint operation.

The United States has waited, with increasing frustration, for the Europeans to act, and the recent flurry of activity, notably the unilateral moves by France, has been partly due to Washington's goading behind the scenes. But there has been no common voice from European capitals.

France, seizing the opportunity to take the lead while Washington held back, has by its individual gestures wrongfooted both America and Europe, first with President Mitterrand's courageous six-hour visit to Sarajevo, undertaken without any consultation with his European colleagues, and now with the offer to send troops and helicopters to Bosnia.

While the announcement from Paris might give comfort to those in the streets of Sarajevo, the decision to send in a squadron of attack helicopters, even though apparently approved by the UN in New York, created an immediate dilemma for Major-General Lewis MacKenzie, the highly capable Canadian commander of the UN forces in the Bosnian capital. As the commander on the ground, he knows that in such a threatening environment he cannot guarantee the safety of foreign helicopters in Sarajevo at this stage.

President Havel warned of the revival of history that had long seemed forgotten and superseded. "All the ancient conflicts, wrongs, injustices and animosities are suddenly coming back to life and back to mind," he said. "It was obvious that nothing had been forgotten or forgiven."

It is as if certain parts of Europe and Asia awoke from a narcosis which had for years numbed them and were beginning to live, the lives they had lived before.

They were remembering their past kings and emperors, their centuries-old thorny history. They were becoming aware of national identities repeatedly suppressed. It was understandable, therefore, that this should breed fanaticism, xenophobia and intolerance, as well as all kinds of demagogues, authoritarians and populists to whom people, overcome by a deep

Havel warns of history's demons

Leaders of former communist countries denounced the political, economic and environmental ruin wreaked on them, Michael Binyon writes from Helsinki

IN A sustained and searing indictment of the bitter legacy of communism, Vaclav Havel, the president of the Czech Republic, yesterday spoke of the nationalist fanaticism, xenophobia and intolerance sweeping much of Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union.

"One hundred and fifty years ago Europe was haunted by the spectre of communism. Today it is haunted by the spectre of post-communism," he told leaders of 51 nations, many of them former communist states, meeting here. He said that the citizens of the new democratic regimes were not used to freedom and were confused. "They find it difficult to get used to being fully fledged citizens and to get rid of all the bad habits which communism planted in them." It was now evident how very ill the communist economy was. The veil of lies had fallen and the devastation of the environment had unfolded.

President Havel warned of the revival of history that had long seemed forgotten and superseded. "All the ancient conflicts, wrongs, injustices and animosities are suddenly coming back to life and back to mind," he said. "It was obvious that nothing had been forgotten or forgiven."

It is as if certain parts of Europe and Asia awoke from a narcosis which had for years numbed them and were beginning to live, the lives they had lived before.

They were remembering their past kings and emperors, their centuries-old thorny history. They were becoming aware of national identities repeatedly suppressed. It was understandable, therefore, that this should breed fanaticism, xenophobia and intolerance, as well as all kinds of demagogues, authoritarians and populists to whom people, overcome by a deep

feeling of uncertainty, were turning for salvation. Mr Havel's forceful speech, which Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, described as a remarkable explanation of the post-communist unrest, was echoed by many other leaders of former communist countries, who repeatedly denounced the political, economic and environmental turmoil wreaked on their countries. The leaders of Georgia, Estonia, Kazakhstan and Armenia all blamed their ills on communism.

Mr Havel cited his own country as one that until recently was perceived as a potential pillar of stability in Central Europe because of its democratic traditions. "Yet my country, too, is now finding itself in a profound crisis of statehood."

He said the West had to take up the great historic challenge of our generation: to influence events in a creative way so that they would not bring chaos, new conflicts, misery or more suffering, but a new, better order of peace. "The peace orders maintained in Europe so far are falling apart." This was also affecting the West, which was losing the former unity it had in the face of the threat from the East. "Confronted with the Eastern dramas, the

West seems to be losing the certainty from which it has so far drawn its common way." He said nothing could stop people newly liberated from pursuing a course of emancipation. The wider the arms of democracy opened, the faster it would be rid of the demons of hatred, violence and ethnic fanaticism.

Arnold Rütel, the Estonian president, spoke of his bitterness at the loss of independence during the second world war, and said that there could be no stability in the Baltic states until all troops of the former Soviet Union were withdrawn. He said they significantly threatened security in northern Europe.

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Georgian deputy leader held

Moscow: Supporters of the ousted Georgian president, Zviad Gamsakhurdia, kidnapped the deputy prime minister, Alexander Kavsadze, yesterday in a new show of resistance to the country's leadership.

Vakhtanga Gogvadze, spokesman for the ruling State Council, told local journalists that Mr Kavsadze's car had been blown up while he was in the west of the Caucasian republic. "In all probability Kavsadze is alive and has been kidnapped by the terrorists," he said. The council always refers to Mr Gamsakhurdia and his supporters as "terrorists".

Interfax said the attackers struck near the village of Kanti, killing the car's driver.

Western Georgia is the main stronghold of Mr Gamsakhurdia, elected president by a landslide in May 1991 but then denounced as a dictator by his opponents. He was overthrown in January after a bloody two-week battle in which hundreds died. (Reuters)

Blood infected

Paris: Michel Garreau, former head of France's national blood-transfusion service, admitted at a trial for fraud and negligence that he had made a mistake leading to the infection of hundreds of haemophiliacs with the AIDS virus in 1985. (Reuters)

Trials ordered

Tirane: Albania will put 19 former communist officials, including the widow of Enver Hoxha, the late Stalinist leader, and Adil Canzani, the former prime minister, on trial for misappropriation of public funds, court officials said. (Reuters)

Nomad freed

Nairobi: After a three-month trial, Ahmed Abdurrahman, 32, the Kenyan nomad headman, secured the release of his son, Gideon, the British ambassador in 1989 has been acquitted in the high court in Nairobi. (Reuters)

Lukanov seized

Sofia: Andrei Lukanov, former Bulgarian prime minister who helped to topple the Todor Zhivkov dictatorship in 1989, was arrested on charges of embezzling state funds. If convicted, he faces 30 years in jail. (AFP)

Strike threat

Rome: Union leaders have threatened industrial chaos if Giuliano Amato, the prime minister, goes ahead with plans to raise income tax by up to five per cent in an effort to reduce Italy's huge budget deficit. (Reuters)

Immunity ends

Rome: Magistrates investigating a corruption scandal in Milan got a boost from the Italian parliament when it lifted the immunity of five MPs linked with the affair. (Reuters)

Art and craft

Moscow: Smugglers illegally exported £7 million of art works from Russia in 1991, three times as much as in 1990, a newspaper said. (AP)

Victims' families 'offered' \$1 m each

Lockerbie mother alleges bribes

THE mother of a victim of the Pan Am Lockerbie bombing has accused a businessman with ties to Libya of trying to bribe the victims' families with \$1 million (£520,000) each to speak out against the United Nations sanctions imposed.

Carole Johnson, whose daughter Beth Ann was one of the 270 people killed in the 1988 bomb attack, said that two men came to her home in Greensburg, Pennsylvania, to make the offer last week. "They came out and pretty well said the Libyans would be willing to pay \$1 million to each family, and if it would mean \$270 million, they had no problem with that," she told a local newspaper.

Mrs Johnson said the men wanted her to sign a letter to Congress asking that the government should agree to allow Libya to send the two Libyan intelligence agents wanted for the bombing, Abdel Basset Ali al-Megrahi and Lamen Khalifa Fhimah, to a third country for trial. Britain and the United States insist that the UN sanctions on air links and arms sales must remain in force until the two suspects are surrendered

A businessman's involvement in a settlement angered people who lost loved ones. James Bone writes from New York

for trial in a British or American court.

Libya has offered to hand them to the Arab League, the United Nations or a neutral third country to stand trial. British relatives of the victims of the bombing would resist any attempt to bribe them into dropping their campaign to have the killers brought to justice, a leading campaigner said yesterday.

The men who visited Mrs Johnson's home have been identified as Val Miller, a lawyer, and C. McClain Haddow, a lobbyist who served in the Reagan administration. Both were representing Henry Karchner, a Seattle-based businessman.

Mr Karchner, who had extensive food development projects in Libya before the United States bombed Tripoli in retaliation for a terrorist attack in 1986, said he had been approached by Libya to try to improve bilateral relations. He denied trying to bribe the victims' families. "I

haven't offered them any compensation. I wouldn't offer them anything. I wouldn't try to buy someone off. I was trying to help them," Mr Karchner said.

Mr Miller confirmed that he and Mr Haddow had met with several families and asked them to write a letter to their congressman to speed a resolution of the issue. He said he and Mr Haddow had discussed the possibility of Libya setting up a \$270 million victims' compensation fund, but said that the families were told that the idea was hypothetical.

Dr Jim Swire, the leader of the British Lockerbie Families Group, whose daughter Flora died in the bombing, said Mr Karchner's action "seems to me to be an attempt to bribe those who want to see justice done into perverting the course of justice. As such it is totally unacceptable to the British group."

"If we stand for anything, it is for an attempt to get to the

truth and get justice applied to those who are guilty and to take such steps open to us to make sure such a thing never happens again," he told BBC radio. "It is simply not the case that precious people's lives are negotiable in terms of money and anyone who thinks that is the case should forget it here and now." He said he was unaware that Mr Karchner had approached any British relatives.

Paul Hudson, the president of Victims of Pan Am 103-Lockerbie, who lost his daughter Melina in the bombing, said members of the victims' group met Mr Miller and Mr Haddow last week in Washington. He said he knew of no offers of money.

● **Jury undecided:** After two days of deliberation jurors said yesterday that they were unable to decide whether Pan Am was negligent for failing to prevent a bomb-laden suitcase being loaded on to the flight that exploded over Lockerbie. Thomas C. Plant, the district judge, sent them back to the jury room saying: "I know it's hard. I know it's difficult. I know it's exasperating at times, but try to do the best you can." (AP)

Dutch bask in glory of clean waters

FROM MARK FULLER
IN AMSTERDAM
AND TOM WALKER
IN BRUSSELS

THE TIMES GUIDE TO BEACHES

Beaches not complying with EC pollution standards

Certain beaches at the following resorts fail to comply with EC standards

HOLLAND
NORTH HOLLAND
Zeeburg, Velsen
Bloemendaal, Haarlem
SOUTH HOLLAND
Noordwijk, Hellevoetsluis, Breda
BEELAND
Bredene, Oostend, Nieuwpoort, Koksijde



ation, said: "The period of algae growth has lengthened, encroaching on the bathing season. The worst problem is the foam it creates when pounded by the waves."

The North Sea Directorate, which is responsible for the infrastructure and water quality of the Dutch section of the North Sea, regularly monitors the chemical composition of the water. Minke Lagerwerf, its spokeswoman, said there were no reasons for alarm. "A bathers would have to consume sev-

eral litres of seawater to become ill."

Both the directorate and the ANWB emphasised that it was extremely safe to swim in Dutch waters. The cleanest waters are in the southern province of Zeeland which also receives the most sun hours in The Netherlands, and the northern Wadden sea, two of the country's most popular resorts are Scheveningen, outside The Hague, and Zandvoort, near Haarlem. The standard of Holland's

beaches is high. The period of algae growth has lengthened, encroaching on the bathing season. The worst problem is the foam it creates when pounded by the waves."

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185 miles of beach is good to excellent.

On the Belgian coast, Ostend and Nieuwpoort are the main problem areas. The river IJzer, which debouches at Nieuwpoort, carries a cocktail of all traces of human activity - heavy metals and organic micro-pollutants. The result is that the seawater around two of Ostend's four beaches is dangerously contaminated by faecal coliform.

Moving west from Ostend, however, the water at the more upmarket resorts of De Haan and Knokke-Heist conforms to EC coliform standards, but the incoming waves still leave behind froth along the beach.

The Belgian authorities are building a sewage treatment works between Nieuwpoort and Oostduinkerke to help clean up the IJzer. The aim is to reduce pollution by 50 per cent in 10 years, beginning from 1995.

The EC's 1991 survey notes that 85 per cent of Belgium's beaches conform with faecal coliform limits but adds that half of the bathing waters tested harbour potentially dangerous faecal streptococci, and that nearly all are contaminated by salmonella.

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Clinton picks Gore in calculated bid for Southern vote

FROM PETER STOTHARD
US EDITOR
IN WASHINGTON

BILL Clinton announced yesterday that Senator Al Gore would be his running mate for the Democratic presidential campaign, marking a new stage in what George Bush has called this year's "weird" electoral politics.

Senator Gore, who ran for the presidency himself in 1988 and who refused to run this year when it seemed that President Bush was unbeatable, will now fight behind a man who for most of their careers has been his clear political junior in the Democratic South.

Although a year younger than Governor Clinton, the 44-year-old senator from Tennessee has spent 15 years in Congress, inheriting his present seat from his father. "If anyone had said that Al Gore would be Bill Clinton's 'veep' choice a year ago, he would have been laughed off Capitol Hill," a senior party official said.

The selection, which was made after an exhaustive bureaucratic procedure, showed a cold calculation of present realities by the Clinton campaign. It immediately disappointed the left wing of the



party, led at the highest level internally by Hillary Clinton and represented most vocally outside by the Rev Jesse Jackson. "I have deep concerns," Mr Jackson said yesterday, arguing that "it takes two wings to fly and here you have two of the same wing."

The choice also broke from the principle that a vice-presidential candidate should bring regional balance to the ticket. The 2,000-mile Boston-Austin axis that helped John Kennedy and Lyndon Johnson to be elected has been replaced by a ten-minute boat ride across the Mississippi. Traditional Democratic supporters in the big cities, some of whom are flirting openly with Ross Perot, the independent challenger, had their worst suspicions confirmed.

Three reasons underlay yesterday's announcement. The first and foremost was that Governor Clinton could not afford further scandals. In Senator Gore the campaign found a man who had already faced the fire of a presidential battle and survived with his reputation intact. The Gore family is conventional and Mrs Gore outdoes even Mrs Quayle to her "family values", campaigning against sexually explicit rock lyrics.

The second reason is that the Democrats cannot win without the South. In a three-way race, the man who can help to hold the home base is more important than one who might expand it. The campaign had also closely

considered Senator Bob Graham of Florida, whose national reputation is weaker than Senator Gore's, and Ann Richards, the Texas governor, whose personal reputation, however, failed the "spotless test".

The third, and probably least important, reason is that Senator Gore's experience, particularly in foreign policy, the environment and military service, fills gaps in Governor Clinton's. It is doubtful if the electorate is as impressed by that notion as the party professionals are. But some doubters about the Democratic nominee may be reassured by the presence of a strong advocate for the Pentagon and an early supporter of the Gulf war.

In this so-called "year of the woman" there was early pressure for Dianne Feinstein of California. There was a long discussion of how a political outsider would be the perfect response to Ross Perot. But the only outsider everyone could agree on, Colin Powell, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, was not available. Mr Jackson kept up a permanent campaign for a representative of ethnic minorities — that is, himself.

For the past few weeks the media have been full of speculation about Mr Clinton's choice. It suited the Democrats for the focus to be on some positive decision by their candidate rather than on the candidate himself. Officials yesterday were optimistic about the smooth running of next week's New York convention and the prospects for at least a superficial unity. The realist among them also recognised that, when the votes are counted, there has rarely been past evidence that a vice-presidential nominee has affected the outcome. Mr Johnson helped Kennedy a little 32 years ago. This year, whatever today's headlines suggest, Bill Clinton is on his own.

Leading article, page 15



Gore: fills the gaps in Clinton's experience



Burning issues: a demonstrator running through the burning remains of an effigy of a police officer during a protest in the Washington Heights section of New York. It was the third night of

unrest after the police killing of a Dominican immigrant. There were 2,000 police officers on the streets on Tuesday and "we are not going to scale back", Suzanne Trzost, deputy police commis-

sioner, said. Since the police shooting of José García on Friday night the police have arrested 125 people in Washington Heights, a district where many Hispanics live. Fifty-three officers and 16 local

people were injured, 14 buildings and 121 vehicles were set on fire and 11 police cars were damaged. The worst unrest was on Monday night, with violence spread over a 70-block area. One man was killed.

Superbait takes fun out of fishing

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN NEW YORK

The days when an amateur angler might have to spend all day on a riverbank and catch nothing are over. A scientist from Louisiana has invented an answer to the prayers of impatient or unsporting fishermen — a chemical mix that sends fish into a feeding frenzy and guarantees a catch for the most inept fisherman.

In the course of his research into the brain of the common catfish, Dr John Caprio, a neuro-physiologist at Louisiana State University, stumbled across a combination of amino acids that provokes an involuntary snapping response in fish.

Dr Caprio's superbait will

soon be marketed as Gotta Bite. When a dose is squirted into a tank of catfish, usually rather sluggish, they undergo a minor fit, performing aquatic somersaults and munching at anything within range, including gravel, rocks, and the glass.

The inventor says the superbait could be used by anglers in a variety of ways: "If you like to fish with a worm, you can just dip it in the goo between casts, or you could use a slow-release mechanism attached to a hook." Dr Caprio is developing more amino-acid cocktails that will have a similarly suicidal effect on other

fish, including trout, pike and bass.

Gotta Bite is the result of collaboration with Tine Valentincic, a Slovene animal behaviourist. The invention has been patented by the university and a deal with an American manufacturing company will be announced this week.

A market for Gotta Bite will also be sought among commercial fish farms where fish often lose their appetites after a few months in captivity. A little Gotta Bite mixed with their usual feed, Dr Caprio says, will not only keep non-feeding fish from wasting away but will also make the others

fatter and faster. The same technology could be applied to people to persuade, say, recalcitrant infants to finish their meals.

American angling clubs have reacted with dismay to Dr Caprio's superbait invention, pointing out that, although it takes some of the frustration out of fishing, it removes all the enjoyment.

"There is a lot more to fishing than catching fish," says Neal Emerald, co-ordinator of Trout Unlimited, America's largest angling association. "The point is to track down a fish in its own environment and fool him, not to stimulate him with a bunch of chemicals."

Shuttle ends its record 14-day flight

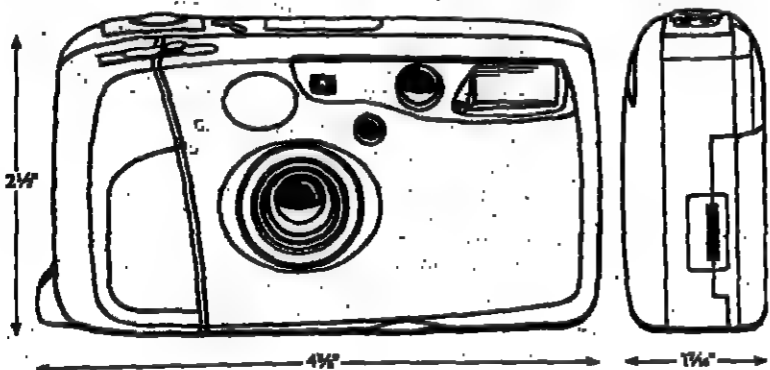
Cape Canaveral: The space shuttle Columbia landed in Florida yesterday, successfully completing its 14-day research mission and the longest shuttle flight.

The remnants of a Pacific Ocean hurricane, which had delayed the landing for a day, also forced the shuttle to land at Cape Canaveral instead of Edwards air force base in California, as scheduled.

The crew of five men and two women worked on experiments and equipment demonstrations. NASA considered critical for longer missions necessary to construct a space station. They also collected data on their adaptation to weightlessness. (Reuters)

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For example, the T4's Red Eye Reduction

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If on the other hand you want to take a night scene or create a certain mood using whatever light is available, you'll want the T4's 'night scene no flash mode' which lets you shoot at a slower speed.

But if you want to leave it all up to the T4 you can.

The flash is automatic, not only when the lights are low, but if the T4 believes the subject is too strongly back-lit. It's quite capable of compensating for it all by itself.

Automatically. There's even a Background Brightness Control which automatically cuts in to enhance backgrounds, if it judges the lighting situations to be a bit tricky.

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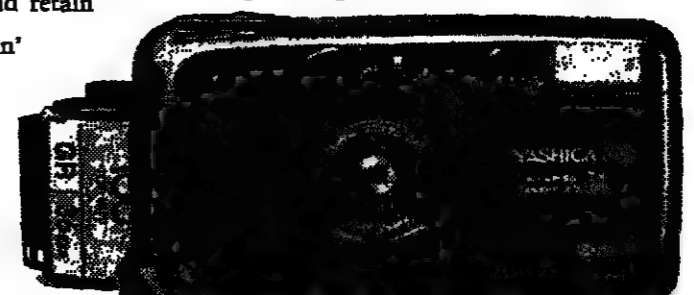
Everything's designed so that you can concentrate on what really matters: taking great photographs.

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Pile 'em high, sell 'em cheap

The end of the book monopoly is good for readers, argues Daniel Johnson

The cartel has been declared dead more often than Count Dracula; but every time a legal state is hammered through its heart, the ghoulish vampire of monopoly power returns to prey on the unwary customer. In this country the lingering mistrust of unfettered market forces is nowhere more evident than in the book trade.

That trade is monopolised by a cartel in all but name. It consists of the Publishers' Association (three-quarters of the publishers) and a few big retailers led by W. H. Smith. Since 1957 the cartel's legal underpinning has been provided by the net book agreement (NBA), which prevents booksellers from discounting. Yesterday the European Court of Justice upheld the EC Commission's 1988 ruling that the NBA amounts to an illegal restraint of trade. The Publishers' Association has retired to lick its wounds.

It is too soon to be sure whether this judgment really does spell the end of resale price maintenance in the book trade. If it does, as Terry

The first objection is dubious. Small bookshops need be no more vulnerable to discounting by large chains than any other small shops. Small general bookshops have already been squeezed: in east London, for example, I know of only two between Whitechapel and Stoke Newington. But specialised shops can and will flourish because they supply small but lucrative markets, for which otherwise only the largest flagship emporiums — Foyles, Blackwell's, Dillons, Heffers — can hope to cater. In the United States, where book prices are set by the market and are on average at least 25 per cent cheaper than here, small specialised bookshops survive quite well.

The same applies to small publishers. American publishers sell to the trade at a fixed price, and their profit margins are therefore unaffected by discounting. They rely on the sheer size of the book-buying public (there are, for instance, huge book club sales) to reduce their unit costs. British publishers have much smaller

'Publishers have pushed prices up faster than inflation in recent years, while quality has tended to decline'

print runs as a rule — a couple of thousand copies is quite common for the first edition of a novel — and so are terrified by the prospect of tighter margins. Such margins on a small percentage of titles would be a small price to pay if sales were to recover from their present rock-bottom levels, however, and the book-buying public enlarged to include the millions

who read only magazines or newspapers. But the British market, one fifth the size of the American, buys proportionately fewer hardback books than by rights it ought. Publishers and booksellers have pushed prices up faster than inflation in recent years, while quality has tended to decline. The present recession has forced many publishers to shed staff, and some have been absorbed by larger conglomerates. Only a few, however, have responded by pricing books more competitively (for example by publishing new books straight into paperback), while protestations of greater selectivity ("we only publish books we can sell to the Americans") ring hollow when the total number of titles rises even as the volume of sales falls.

The book trade, then, has not adjusted to recession as quickly or as imaginatively as it might have done. Desperation has belatedly gripped the bookmen, but the books need not be threatened. Serious writers have nothing to fear from the NBA's demise, any more than serious journalists had an interest in the restrictive practices which dogged newspapers until 1985.

Sluggishness is the natural condition of a cartel. Break it up, and we shall hear rather less about stillborn books, destined only for remainder, and rather more about books that will live. Cheap books are the dung without which no high culture can flourish.

A legacy of military failure is staying America's hand in the Balkans, says Ben Macintyre

Why GI Joe says no

conflict does not provide them. At the root of this attitude lies America's recent military record, and in particular the Vietnam war, a vivid scar on the national psyche. President Bush's wording at Munich is instructive. He would not, he said, send troops into action whenever there is a "hiccup here or there". To describe what promises to be the bloodiest civil war in Europe for nearly half a century as "a hiccup" may seem to be just another example of George Bush's verbal ineptitude, but he was expressing, somewhat crassly, a view shared by most Americans. At its simplest that view is that America will no longer fight unless it is attacked, and since America is no longer under threat it should not fight. America has been transformed from the global policeman, with the self-appointed task of righting wrongs, into the global accountant, totting up the moral

need for force against its economic or political returns.

America's experiences, first in Lebanon and then the Gulf, have crystallised this attitude. The bombing of the marine barracks in Beirut was one of the most successful acts of political terrorism ever carried out, but the subsequent withdrawal of American troops was greeted not with shame but with undisguised relief.

Unlike Britons, Americans do not generally view the Gulf war as a victory pure and simple — a successful engagement, perhaps, necessary to protect American interests and probably of sufficient emotional force to put General Schwarzkopf in the White House should he ever aspire to it, but hardly worthy of celebration. For some the promise to remove Saddam Hussein has been added to a list of Mr Bush's unfulfilled pledges. In terms of its self-

perception, America has not won a war outright since 1945, just as Britain, in the same terms, has not lost one in living memory.

The middle level of the Bush administration is divided over whether America should intervene militarily in the Balkans, but the president and the defence department have made it clear that they have no intention of sending ground combat troops. An internal defence document revealed their qualms. "Operations to restore order could suddenly deteriorate into combat," it warned. "Unlike peacekeeping operations, a force tasked with restoring order is not a disinterested party."

Military involvement in the Balkans is only part of the argument over America's role in the post-Cold War world, which was placed into sharp relief in Munich. As one official remarked: "This is the first summit in which the Americans

are just another player; Germany is now running the show."

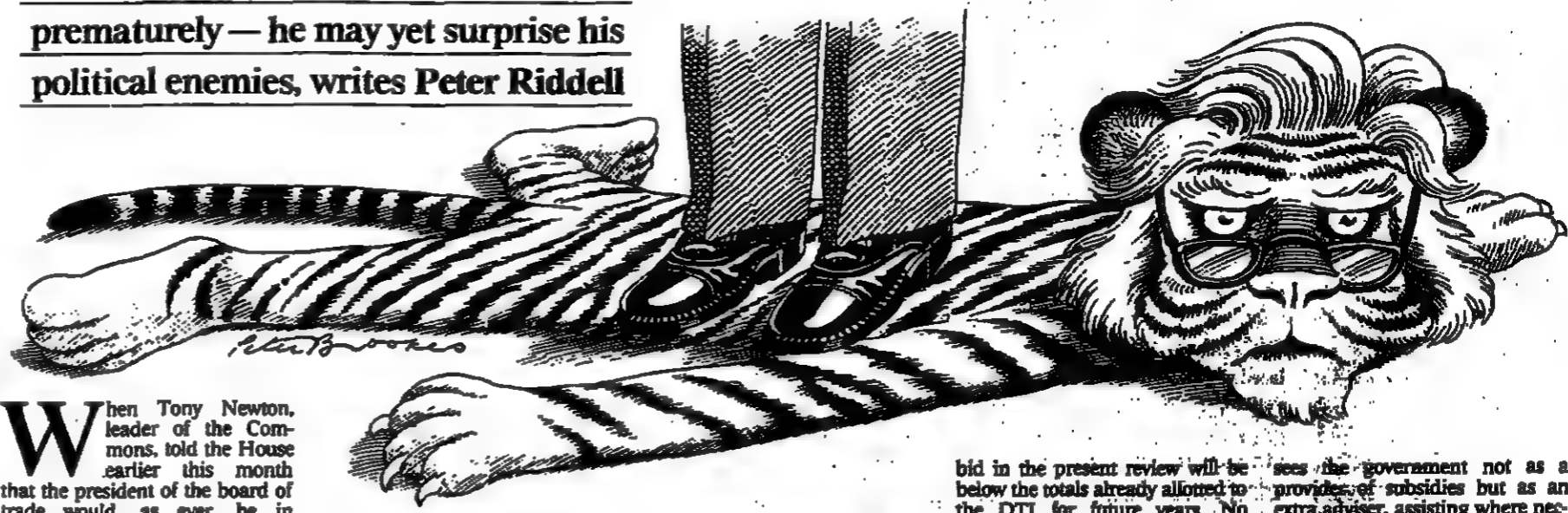
Defending his low-key performance in Munich, which could not have come at a more critical time in his campaign for re-election, President Bush emphasised America's status as the solitary superpower, but noted that while "people still look to the United States... that doesn't mean the way you lead is to dictate". Nor, say some critics, does it mean you abdicate.

At the moment most Americans are staunchly behind the "Hell, no, we won't go" posture of the Bush administration; but it is quite another question how they will feel about the Balkan conflict, and President Bush, if they find other countries winning the military glory and political advantage.

There is, says one newspaper editorial, "a residue of uneasiness" about America's apparently diminishing economic, as well as political and military, role. "Will the end of the Cold War, like the end of the first world war, mean a time in which it's every government for itself?"

A gleam in the eye of the tiger

Michael Heseltine has been written off prematurely — he may yet surprise his political enemies, writes Peter Riddell



When Tony Newton, leader of the Commons, told the House earlier this month that the president of the board of trade would, as ever, be in ceaseless action in the following week, MPs duly laughed at his double-edged remark. Nobody doubts Michael Heseltine's energy. Over the past week he has announced a reshaping of his department's operations, jostled in the Commons with Gordon Brown, one of Labour's best debaters, and answered questions in the House — almost as a distraction from his main concerns in Whitehall. All has been carried off with characteristic Heseltine flair; but to what effect?

Mr Heseltine is now an unfashionable figure. Following the Tories' election victory, he is, accidents apart, now never likely to be prime minister. John Major will be party leader for some years, and any successor will be from a generation younger than Mr Heseltine, who is 59. His many rivals among Tory MPs believe he will lose interest. They argue that, after striving for so long to head the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), he has achieved his goal only to discover that it is an empty prize, with a grand title, no money and little to do. His detailed plans for a new industrial policy, outlined in the testament of his wilderness years, *Where There's A Will*, have vanished. Or, as Mr Brown put it brutally in the Commons, "the interventionist tiger of the rubber chicken circuit

has been brought low, reduced to trophy status. The tiger that was once the king of the jungle is now just the firsides rug — decorative and ostentatious, but essentially there to be walked all over."

But the tiger is far from dead; it is biding its time. Mr Heseltine is too canny to behave now like the angry jungle beast he was during the Thatcher era. After spending nearly five years out of office following his resignation over the Westland affair, he has no wish to be on the back benches again. Not only does he enjoy office, but he also likes being a member of Mr Major's cabinet.

There was an initial period of wariness after November 1990. Other ministers wondered what Mr Heseltine was up to. His challenge, after all, was what brought down Margaret Thatcher, an achievement he rightly believes allowed the Tories to win last April. After some matchmaking by Chris Patten, Mr Major and Mr Heseltine developed close working relations, recognising each other's strengths. This was cemented by Mr Heseltine's prominence in the election. He relishes a battle and thrived during the campaign with his carefully prepared speeches, rousing his audiences by his daring and outrageousness.

The real reason why Mr

A WEEK IN POLITICS

Heseltine's critics may be wrong is that they underestimate his interest in being a minister running a department that nobody else wants and where so many have failed as secretary of state. He appears content to remain there for a full four or five-year period. He knows his many enemies are eagerly awaiting his fall, and he is determined not to fight on their ground.

There will be no premature battles on unfavourable territory. There was no argument with Norman Lamont over the decision to shut down the National Economic Development Office. In his 1987 book he had urged an enlarged role for NEDO, but in the intervening years it has been slimmed down and pushed even further to the margins of policy-making by the Treasury. So NEDO's limited sponsoring role for industry can be better performed by the DTI, which will also, of course, be under Mr Heseltine's direct control.

He has also skillfully pre-empted any headlines about battles with the Treasury over public spending by announcing that his opening

bid in the present review will be below the totals already allotted to the DTI for future years. No minister will be seen to be more supportive of the Treasury's overall economic policy; he talks publicly of the Treasury as a partner.

The debate over the European Fighter Aircraft is unlikely to be a replay of the Westland row of 1985-86. Mr Heseltine has made clear his preference for a British option, rather than buying an American aircraft, but this time he has been careful not to go too far. The prime minister has been publicly sympathetic and, anyway, decisions do not have to be taken for some time.

The clue to Mr Heseltine now is that after years as the leader of a frontal assault he has become a Fabian, avoiding confrontation and seeking to change government's relations with industry gradually by stealth. Mr Heseltine DTI is likely to be more mercantilist than in the hands of regimes of Nicholas Ridley and Peter Lilley. Not only have the divisions dealing with industrial sectors been revived but, in public, there has been a resumption of key civil servants.

The changes will be incremental, seldom the stuff of headlines. Talk about supporting wealth creation and creating the right climate can amount to little more than vague waffle. Mr Heseltine

sees the government not as a provider of subsidies but as an extra adviser, assisting where necessary with foreign governments. He was adamant in his announcement last Friday that the DTI would not "slavishly follow" industry's special pleading. A government determined to shake up some of the more moribund trade associations is tricky.

Mr Heseltine's tactic of working in this gradualist way to bring closer co-operation between Whitehall and industry is naturally seen by the Opposition, and especially by some Thatcherite critics, as a surrender of his beliefs. He is being indulged in a calculated game he can do little harm, or good. It is hard to identify targets by which his approach can be judged in four or five years' time. There will be no repetition of the "inflation rate is judge and jury" which Nigel Lawson offered in his heyday in the mid-1980s. I doubt Mr Heseltine wants to be judged by the size of the trade deficit. A better parallel might be successful projects such as City Challenge, which Mr Heseltine launched at the environment department, under which councils compete for money for inner-city schemes.

That all sounds rather modest, but then nowadays so is Mr Heseltine. He no longer appears restless for Downing Street. He has adjusted his ambitions. Don't put your life savings in Heseltine; but the selling has been overdone.



...and moreover
ALAN COREN

It stands to reason, as Worzel Gummidge used to say in the good old days when a scarecrow was a scarecrow, that the faster things change, the faster the changes leave. And so rapidly do things change now that by Tuesday, Monday can quite easily seem a good old day. Before long, no doubt, we shall find ourselves, at around 3pm, looking back wistfully at a good old morning, and soon after that we shall probably dab our eyes at the memory of that good old minute which disappeared for ever half an hour before.

Today I went down to my local video-rental shop on West End Green. It wasn't there. What was there was a blackened ruin. Stunned, I stood and trembled, like Vivian Leigh before the remains of Tara, waiting for some faithful old retainer to run from the reeking rubble crying: "Oh, Massa, Massa, de ole video store done burned down, dat Gen'l Sherman done torched de entiah stock!", but nobody came, so I pulled myself together and went next door to enquire. A not unreasonable move, given that next door is the West Hampstead Fire Station, and if they didn't know, who would? Getting it out of them, mind, might be a bit tricky, there could well be a deal of mutual embarrassment to be hurdled, the fire brigade would not, after all, have had to do much to be on the scene, sticking a hose out of one window and into another ought to have done it, they wouldn't

even have had to slide down their pole. "It is being investigated," said the fireman. "We have reason to suspect an accelerator may have been employed." He paused; the pause of the insider. "An accelerator is the term we use to describe a device."

"A tin of petrol, as it were?" I offered. "It is being investigated," repeated the fireman, and went back to polishing his appliance, because you can never tell when you might have to drive somewhere. Not all fires break out next door.

"Nearest video place is in Mill Lane," said the man in the grocer's, because, though my heart was heavy, life had to go on. I thus arrived at the door of The Video Store. A plaque on this door said: "Multiple Rental Retailer of the Year 1991". I went in. It was not like my dear old incinerated Plug Inn. It did not have an owners' baby gurgling in its pushchair, nor an owner's mum cooking out back, it did not have an owner's cat stropping itself against the till, it had anodised shelving and computers, and when I asked if *Empire of the Sun* was in stock the manager said he would have to see two documents, eg gas bill and bank statement, before I could be entered on the membership computer, would I fill in this form stating name, address, birthdate, profession, etc, and indicate in the box provided whether I wanted Supercover Tape. Damage Protection for life, only £5?

I enquired, and he slid me a leaflet inviting me to guess what a videotape cost. "£5? £10? £20? No, more like £80, suppose it was eaten by pets or children, stood on, jumped on, chewed up by your VCR? Fear not! Ritz in its usual inventive market-leading ways has the solution."

"Ritz?" I said. "It says The Video Store outside."

"Taken over by Ritz last year," said the manager. "Ritz is a chain of 1,000 outlets. A wholly-owned subsidiary of Cityvision. Or was."

"Was?" "Ritz has just been taken over by Blockbusters," said the manager, "but we've not got the wuss-name documentation yet."

I signed, and walked home to dig out my gas bill and bank statement, and few crossing my path would have guessed that I was crying on the inside, since who would imagine we should one day feel nostalgic for the passing of the corner video shop, its charm, its innocence, its intimacy, its funny little ways? For passing it patently is, whether by molotov cocktail or takeover, or in some cases, perhaps, a mixture of both, to be replaced by megacorporates who view the customer as some degenerate credit-unworthy madman jumping up and down on a video already half-eaten by his horrible offspring.

When I go back to collect my membership card, I shall not take out *Empire of the Sun*. Instead, I shall see if they've got *Casablanca*. I'd like to hear Sam play "As Times Goes By" again.

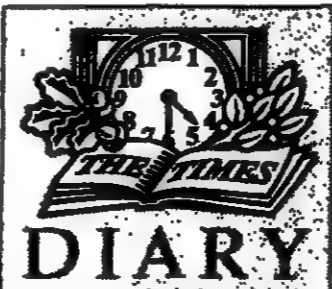
Revenge of the whips

AFTER the removal of the rebellious Nicholas Winterton as chairman of the Commons select committee on health, the Tory whips moved on yesterday to wreak vengeance on the young turks who signed the rebel motion on Maastricht after the Danish referendum.

The majority of the new intake of Tory backbenchers who had the audacity to sign the motion declaring Maastricht dead found themselves conspicuous only by their absence when the full membership lists of the select committees were published yesterday. Those punished included some of the party's brightest rising stars. David Lidington, 36, former special adviser to Douglas Hurd when he was both home and foreign secretary, was a notable casualty who was given nothing. Charles Hendry, 33, one of the most informed Tory experts on social services after spells as special adviser to two secretaries of state, is another who has been overlooked.

Alan Duncan, 35, whose Gayfere Street house was used as John Major's leadership campaign headquarters, is a third Maastricht rebel left out in the cold. Two other bright young stars, John Whittingdale, 32, Mrs Thatcher's former political secretary, and Bernard Jenkin, 33, have also apparently been punished for their early display of rebellion.

By contrast Lady Olga Maitland and Hardley Booth, the man who succeeded Lady Thatcher as MP for Finchley, were rewarded with committee places by the whips for succumbing to pressure to remove their names from the rebel list. The approved names have been forwarded by the whips to the Commons committee of selection.



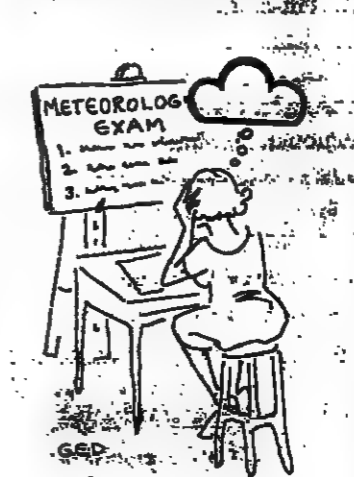
The rebels were privately furious yesterday at their exclusion, although their punishment has had the desired effect. None was prepared to go on the record about their anger. Charles Hendry was typical when he said: "I will not let it spoil my summer recess." Lord St John of Fawley, the architect of the select committee system, was more forthright. "The whips' role was never meant to extend to this sort of interference. It is not the spirit in which I set the committees up."

Bright intervals

The weather girls, for so long saddled with a dumb blonde television image, will soon be able to blow away critics with their credentials. The Meteorological Office has introduced stringent testing to ensure that all presenters will in future be able to tell their isobars from their isotherms.

Yesterday Sian Lloyd, who has been presenting the weather on ITV for two years, became the first to pass the test, breezing through the arcane questions like a human cyclone. Others are queuing to follow, although they will not include Ulrika Jonsson of TV-am, who while always presenting a warm front has never quite inspired the confidence that she knew what one was. She presents her last forecast

on TV-am today, before leaving to "go into pantomime". "All presenters who come to us in consultation with the BBC and ITV without any experience of meteorological work will have to pass the test."



take the exam," says a Met Office spokesman. He insists the test is not sexist. "Male presenters who have no experience will sit the exam just the same." And how many untrained weathermen are there on the books? "Well, er, none actually."

In an emotional atmosphere at the Savoy on Wednesday night the shadow cabinet bade a fond farewell to Neil Kinnock and Roy Hattersley. Only Jo Richardson, who was ill, missed the £150 a head send-off. Dr Jack Cunningham organised the presentation: a silver quail, a Scottish drinking vessel, and two goblets for Kinnock and a silver inkwell and writing set for Hattersley. "So Roy will spend his retirement writing. What are you trying to say about me?" joked Kinnock.

Cartland at 565

BARBARA CARTLAND was more relieved than most yesterday that the French blockade had apparently come to an end. Cartland, celebrating a remarkable double — her 91st birthday and completion of her record-breaking 565th novel — is off to Champagne-Ardenne next week. Dressed from head to toe in her favourite pink at the birthday party at South Kensington's new Gallery Hotel, Cartland was in Francophile mood. "French women are so decent, they know how to bring out the romance in a man. And French food is the only food worth eating."

Her latest literary offering, entitled *Wanted, a Royal Wife*, takes Cartland into *The Guinness Book of Records* as the most prolific British author, one ahead of the crime writer John Creasey. But her dearest birthday wish was that the public should take no notice of Andrew Morton's book about the Princess of Wales. "I think that awful man should be taken to the Tower and shot."

Many that are first shall be last... Sebastian Coe, used to leading from the front, could well be the last of the new MPs to make his maiden speech. Virtually all of the new intake have now made their speeches. Coe was due to deliver his on Tuesday night during the finance bill, when the message came through that he was required to attend an even more important delivery. His wife, Nicky, had gone into labour. Coe sprinted off to be present at the birth of his daughter, and now does not know when he will deliver his maiden. "I am too exhausted to even think about a speech at the moment," he says. "My powers of concentration have been drained."

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PATTEN'S CHINESE PUZZLE

The last substantive British colony greeted its last and undoubtedly substantive ruler yesterday. Not since Mountbatten went to oversee the end of the Indian empire has a governor faced so hard a task. Chris Patten pledged himself in his inaugural address to represent the interests of the people of Hong Kong, not those of China or of Britain. Seldom can his choice of words have been so careful or significant.

Mr Patten addressed himself to five tasks: safeguarding Hong Kong's institutions, maintaining its economy, improving welfare and law and order, and cultivating trust between Britain, Hong Kong and China. Understandably, as this was an occasion calling for ceremonial platitudes, he did not stress the development of democracy in the colony, the most contentious issue he faces. But each and all of these five aims may embrace that objective implicitly as well, not least the last.

Mr Patten's dilemma is acute. He must know that the people of Hong Kong will find it easier trusting the British, and indeed the Chinese before 1997, if the institutions he has come to safeguard enshrine a degree of democratic self-government that will be harder to sweep aside after 1997. This means extending the representation of democratically elected Chinese in his administration. On the other hand, Peking wants no such representation. It is both opposed to individuals, such as Martin Lee, whose opposition to the Peking regime is explicit and vocal, and to wider democracy in principle. This is the circle Mr Patten must try to square.

The Foreign Office view is broadly of the undemocratic persuasion, albeit for solidly pragmatic reasons. It believes that only by ensuring smooth relations between London and Peking can Hong Kong be protected in the long run. This has often meant a determination not to offend Peking, however offensive Peking may be, even at some damage to Britain's reputation for democratic legitimacy.

Chris Patten is no sinologist. He is a politician with a politician's assets, a fairly thick skin and a robust attitude to "the correct channels". He is already said to be arranging

meetings with people his predecessor was only prepared to see on formal occasions. He is close to both John Major and Douglas Hurd. He can indicate by his contacts and demeanour that he will have no truck with what is, now perhaps unfairly, termed the "kowtow" lobby in the Foreign Office.

Since Mr Patten's appointment was announced, China has gone out of its way to impress on him its claims to run Hong Kong and to let him know that the limits of his freedom of action will be ordained in Peking. China has become more aggressive in its demands for prior film censorship and opposes the removal of Hong Kong radio and television from state control. It is making difficult the financing of the new airport and the fixing of the colony's budget.

More serious still, China says it will not permit Mr Patten to ensure that his government is as democratic as possible by appointing elected members to his executive council (where the Chinese have no veto). Mr Patten should indicate that he will not tolerate this intervention and steel himself to make appointments that may enrage Peking.

Even without the complication of relations with Peking, Mr Patten has a monumental task just running Hong Kong's bloated public sector and bureaucracy. The economy is overheating. Inflation has become a risk to competitiveness. There is scope for an ambitious programme of privatisation, for instance in public housing, with the aim of leaving as little as possible in government hands by 1997.

The police and judiciary need reform. No potentially repressive item of legislation should be left on the statute book in 1997, such as the 1930s law on hawkers which Lord Wilson's government used to prosecute pro-democracy demonstrators. If China wants to turn Hong Kong into a dictatorship, it must be forced to do so explicitly, not by using existing colonial laws and then blaming Britain.

This is the reason why democracy is important to Hong Kong: more democracy, explicit democracy, even at the cost of offending an often mercurial Peking regime. Mr Patten is a tough nut. But he is entering the toughest of nutcrackers.

CLINTON GAINS GORE

An American presidential candidate's choice of vice-presidential running mate is about the only decision open to him. It is thus a measure of his political judgment. Governor Bill Clinton, due to be nominated next Wednesday at the Democratic convention in New York, has been under fire for character flaws throughout the campaign. Yesterday he made the safe and predictable selection of Senator Al Gore of Tennessee.

The decision served its immediate purpose. It was welcomed on all sides. Mr Gore fits Mr Clinton's bill in several ways. He is scandal-free and publicly known as a strong family man. His wife "Tipper" has led protests against obscene records. He is a leading campaigner for environmental protection and has senatorial experience in defence and foreign policy, both areas where Mr Clinton is weak.

In defiance of the conventional wisdom, both the presidential and vice-presidential nominees are from the south: Arkansas and Tennessee are neighbouring states. But the Democrats had nobody to broaden the ticket to provide an appeal across the country except Governor Mario Cuomo of New York. As so often before, he stood aside. The party believes it needs to capture several southern states to win the election in November, as Jimmy Carter, another southerner, did 16 years ago.

There is little evidence that the choice of a vice-presidential nominee has ever made much difference to winning the White House, since Lyndon Johnson was reluctantly recruited to the Kennedy ticket in 1960. In a close election, the most that can be done is to avoid a name that might be a liability. Mr Gore has the experience to become president if Mr Clinton died, and by drawing publicity he can at least move the

spotlight off the still phenomenal Ross Perot. The Democrats will start their convention next Monday in better shape than they feared in recent months. American voters may have doubts about Mr Clinton personally but he has survived the battering of the media. The Democratic Party is rallying behind him for a display of unity in New York. He has also begun to develop policies to respond to the evident worries of Americans about the state of the economy and their competitive position.

The predicament of the Democrats is similar to that of the Labour party in Britain: how to throw off the unfavourable associations of the past decade and to exploit the poor economic record of a right-wing administration. Mr Clinton has been trying to shed the Democratic image as representing just the interests of ethnic groups and other minority lobbyists. He knows he must now appeal to the so-called Reagan Democrats, mainly white working families who have become disillusioned with Mr Bush's domestic record. The danger in that approach is that inner city Democrats may desert the party or abstain; a few big city mayors are already flirting with Mr Perot.

Mr Bush has the necessary experience to be re-elected president. He has shown judgment in foreign affairs, but has little to say about America's domestic worries. Mr Perot has neither experience nor judgment. The latest opinion polls put the three candidates in a virtual dead heat. Conventional wisdom holds that this is more the measure of public disillusionment with America's political system than a verdict on the individual candidates. That is as may be. Come November, somebody must win. The selection of Mr Gore has undoubtedly balanced the Clinton ticket.

TRADING INSULTS

James Bigglesworth, DSO, DFC, MC has become the latest victim of political correctness. The flying ace, who once had no qualms about calling African villagers "niggers", has been bawled out in a new edition of Captain W. E. Johns' classic tales of derring-do. Significantly while "niggers", "coons" and "dagos" have been swept away to spare the blushes of modern readers, Biggles is allowed to insult freely most of Britain's fellow Europeans.

The publisher, Random Century, still regards it as satisfactory for Biggles, Ginger and Algy to go on using Hun, Boche and Jerry as epithets for every passing German. The French are Frogs; and everybody of Mediterranean origin is likely to have dark, greasy hair and to reek of garlic.

Looking closely at the Maastricht treaty it is clear that Brussels is worried about these age-old prejudices. Article 130a of the treaty charges member countries with strengthening "social cohesion" and other clauses talk about the "social solidarity" of member states. Could this prove a pretext in the not-so-distant future for a prejudicial words and phrases, just as the French bar any taint of English? Could *Fawcett Towers* be banned for calling Manuel "a greasy dago"? Could reference to jocks, wops and paddys become not just socially unwise but illegal under directive xyz?

A comparative survey of intolerance in Europe published this week puts the Danes and the French as the most easy-going citizens of Europe, while the Portuguese and

the Germans seethe with prejudice. Britons lie in between. Throughout Europe, the harshest remarks are reserved for the closest neighbours. Every proud Welshman must shudder when he hears of someone "welshing" and the English must take in their stride the French jibe of *le rosbi*.

Centuries of bad jokes about a Scotsman, an Irishman and an Englishman may be prejudiced and "racist", but they are hardly divisive. These are affectionate insults exchanged between friends. They differ utterly from the slammed door that greets the black tenant or the racism that excludes a job-seeker because of colour.

The snag remains that a desire to appear unprejudiced forces people into euphemistic language. Eskimos are now called Inuits, as in the Algonquian language eskimo means "eater of raw meat". "Red Indians" have been converted into "native Americans". Yet in the shifting sand of language, some insults have been reclaimed by the victims themselves. Militant blacks are even now calling themselves "niggers", and some homosexuals, "queers".

Shakespeare described France as a "dog's hole" in *All's Well That Ends Well*. To the modern reader even that most civilised of English novelists, Trollope, can sound anti-semitic. Writers echo the language of their era. Biggles must be free to go on fighting his heroic battles in the skies against the Hun. Shylock cannot be shorn of his Jewishness, however uncomfortable the role makes people in the theatre today. Political correctness and the banning of words does not drive out prejudice: it merely hides it.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

Facts, figures and fallacies on dentists' earnings

From Mr Simon J. F. Luty

Sir, The application of a little maths to the figures you report Mrs Bottomley having quoted on dentists' pay (July 7) could sway public opinion.

One hundred dentists with an average net income of £41,000 pa earn in total £4.1 million. If 30 such dentists receive £100,000 (or more), and their £3 million is removed from the total, it follows that the remaining 70 earn £1.1 million — i.e. £15,700 pa each.

Should not the public therefore feel that most dentists are relatively poorly remunerated? Is it not in fact the opinion of the public that most dentists earn far too much for a kick off?

It is clear that there is an ongoing debate about dentists' pay, but without a simpler and clearer explanation of the facts as they are now, and as they are proposed by Mrs Bottomley, I for one cannot yet make canine or molar of it.

Yours faithfully,
SIMON J. F. LUTY,
23 Burney Street, SE10,
July 8.

From the Chairman, British Dental Health Foundation

Sir, Your excellent leading article (July 7) on the crisis facing NHS dentistry omits to mention the quality of dental treatment. Dentists for a great deal of their day are not operating in the curative world of health care: they are craftsmen and women placing in their patients' mouths little manufactured artefacts of their craft. This is a fundamental difference from most other medical services, which aim to return the patient to a state of health.

The antibiotic prescribed by even the most incompetent physician will still cure the patient's infection. In complete contrast, the effectiveness of dental treatment is directly related to its quality, and hence the care and time taken.

There will be enormous variations between dentists and between dental technicians who construct the crowns, bridges and artificial teeth. The public has few criteria by which to judge among all this variety.

The system pays no more if the dentist chooses to use superior and more expensive materials, or when a better, and dearer, technician has been employed. It is always possible to produce an inferior article for a lower price.

NHS dental fees are already very low in comparison with those in most European countries. What worries conscientious dentists is that it will be impossible to maintain standards if the fees are cut further. They are rightly refusing to go down the road of lower standards.

Yours truly,
COLIN HALL DEXTER,
Chairman, The British Dental Health Foundation,
Eastlands Court, St Peter's Road,
Rugby, Warwickshire,
July 7.

From Mr James F. Sullivan

Sir, The proposed "dabback" to correct overpayments resulting from what is after all increased effort cannot be entirely fair. Those retiring escape scot-free and those newcomers to practice who need the rewards most are penalised by reduced fees for the hard work of their predecessors.

Yours faithfully,
JAMES F. SULLIVAN,
4 Uplands Road,
Bournemouth, Dorset.

From Mr C. W. Eckhardt

Sir, Jeremy Laurence, in his excellent article, "Put your money where your mouth is" (Life & Times, July 3), refers to the government's proposed 7 per cent cut in dentists' pay. This is incorrect. The 7 per cent is a cut in fees, which is equivalent to a 16 per cent pay cut, as expenses are officially more than 57 per cent of turnover. In fact, the new fees are much more than 7 per cent lower than current fees. For example, fees for

examination have been cut by 8 per cent, those for the most common filling by 10 per cent and those for registering patients by 15 per cent. Most iniquitous is the 15 per cent cut in fees for making children dentally fit on registration — a strong disincentive to acceptance of the most needy children.

Mrs Bottomley says that the cut should have been 23 per cent. In that case, privatisation or bankruptcy would have become inevitable.

Yours sincerely,
C. W. ECKHARDT,
65 Thorne Road,
Doncaster, South Yorkshire,
July 4.

From Mr Edward Byrne

Sir, The government has set a "target income" for dentists in practice of £35,815 for 1992-3. It is not this target that many dentists are unhappy about but the manner in which they are expected to achieve it.

To achieve target income, a dentist would have to work to times calculated by the Dental Rates Study Group on behalf of the Department of Health. For example: standard examination, 5.98 minutes; x-ray, 3.12; cleaning of teeth, 9.62; small filling, 6.50; very large filling, 16.90; extraction, 10.92.

Out of the time allowed for each of these treatments there must be deducted time for the patient to enter and leave the surgery, cross-infection control procedures, local anaesthesia, and the significant amount of paperwork involved.

At least 50 per cent of dentists fail to achieve the target income each year because they choose to spend more time with the patient, rather than compromise their clinical standards. Many more achieve target income only by working very extended surgery hours.

Yours faithfully,
EDWARD BYRNE,
Edward Byrne Associates,
16 De Parys Avenue, Bedford,
July 7.

From Dame Christian Howard

Sir, Unlike parliamentary government, where a bare majority suffices, synodical government is the joint action of all three houses (bishops, clergy and laity) on the way together: all houses must give a majority for a decision.

In certain matters such as liturgical services and legislation to do with ordination, at final approval stage a two-thirds majority is required in each house and not just a two-thirds majority of the whole synod. (The legislation for the ordination of women should reach this stage in November.) Members are elected as representatives, not delegates.

The Church of England has already made changes in its life and ministry: the Reformation itself, a married episcopate and priesthood and, more recently, the bringing of the laity into partnership with bishops and clergy in General Synod for decisions on doctrine. There will be many in the rural area where I live who would be astonished if the synod failed to pass this legislation.

We are living with pain, but we must try to live through this together as we seek God's will. Could it be that as we pray for more priests but fewer candidates come forward, God may be saying to us: "I have sent them to you but you will not accept them."

Yours sincerely,
CHRISTIAN HOWARD,
Coneythorpe, York.

Ordination of women

From Mr John Meade

Sir, Mr Frank Williams (letter, July 7) adds his voice to those urging the rejection of the ordination of women in the interests of unity. But the disunity already exists.

If by a shortfall in a few votes below the two-thirds mark the General Synod rejects the measure, the size of the majority in favour (defeated by a minority), allied to the fact that the thrust of the proposal is to attune the Church with the world as it now is (and will continue to be), will ensure that the proponents of the ordination of women will fight on. Thus the disunity will continue.

Not only the tide of history but the needs of the Church point towards women's ordination.

The current financial situation shows that those ordained in the future may not be needed as full-time stipendiary persons so much as persons exercising a priestly function part-time in local communities.

There would need to be more of them, and we must not arbitrarily deny ourselves access to the time, talents and dedication of so many who could be called to this task.

Yours faithfully,

J. M. MEADE,
Manor Farm House,
Heddenham,
Bungay, Suffolk,
July 8.

Too old to work?

From the Chairman of the Over-Fifties Association

Sir, The government, probably alone among western nations, persistently refuses to legislate against age discrimination in employment. The private-sector employer's reluctance to employ older workers (Mr John Waugh's letter, July 4) is easily explained by "final" pay-related occupational pensions.

Under such schemes the employer's liabilities over the final ten years of a worker's employment rise dramatically, and out of all proportion to the cost of employing someone half that age (rather like life insurance premiums).

Thus it would be absurd business economics to pay four times the pension cost for a typist or middle-manager aged 50 than for one aged 25, or to expect a four-fold increase

in productivity to justify it.

The fact that discrimination now affects men and women in their late 40s is simply the employer's need to avoid latent costs in the present economic climate wherever he is able.

Government and other public-sector employers can retain and recruit older employees because their "final-pay" pensions are supported by the taxpayer.

However, unemployment will not deter my organisation's members from helping to secure a successful outcome to next year's "European Year for Older People".

Yours faithfully,
ERIC BELLENJE
Chairman, Tofts
(The Over-Fifties Association),
29 Hill Court,
The Ridings, WS,
July 6.

cences should be suspended in the case of serious rule breaches.

The government is to introduce a £25 million scheme to reduce capacity through buying out vessels. Technical measures to conserve fish are important, and the government has just introduced a new range which goes as far as the industry, in consultations earlier this year, was willing to accept. With all the problems of a mixed fishery, these measures alone will not conserve the stocks.

It is essential that they should be seen as part of a package, as was always the intention. Otherwise, to achieve through measures of this kind the same conservation effect as limits on days at sea would mean pushing such measures well beyond what the industry has already said would be bearable.

Yours sincerely,
DAVID CURRY,
Ministry of Agriculture,
Fisheries and Food,
Whitehall Place, SW1,
July 8.

Great houses in need of help

From the President of the Historic Houses Association

Sir, "Hammer poised over 500 years of history" (July 4); "Names forced to sell houses to cover 1800m Lloyd's losses" (July 8); "One of England's great country houses is in danger. Can the government intervene?" (Life & Times, July 8).

These articles, alerting readers to the precarious state of many historic properties, fail to address the fundamental issue.

Annual running costs to maintain and repair historic houses are seldom matched by available income. If our members had not been faced by these annual deficits, many would not have joined Lloyd's. The current situation, which is indeed a crisis, has been exacerbated both by events at Lloyd's and by the recession, but is not caused by them.

Only when historic house owners can irrevocably endow their properties with tax-free maintenance funds, subject to reasonable public access, will the threat of continual sales and dispersals diminish.

The best custodians for these properties are their owners. It is in no one's interest, not the taxpayer's, the tourist's or local community's, that they should be forced to sell. When there are adequate tax-free endowments supporting the properties (not the occupants) then future cyclical depressions will not cause such havoc.

Yours faithfully,
SHELBURNE, President,
Historic Houses Association,
Bowdow House, Calne, Wiltshire,
July 9.

From Dame Jennifer Jenkins

Sir, Mr Ron Mansfield (letter, July 8) asks why Pitchford Hall, Shropshire, would be "lost" if it is sold this autumn. The answer is that its portraits, furniture, porcelain and memorabilia, which have been accumulated during 500 years of family occupation, would be dispersed and hence it would lose much of its unique historic interest.

The house itself, an exceptionally fine timber-framed building, would no doubt survive but might be subdivided and in this case its surrounding garden and land might also lose their character.

Britain has been proud that many of its country houses have retained their historic contents and landscaped parks in contrast to those on the continent, so many of which have been despoiled by war and revolution. But this pride is ceasing to be justified: during the years 1972-90 about 400 listed historic houses which had been occupied by the same family for two generations or more were sold and in virtually every case the contents also went.

The National Heritage Memorial Fund, set up 12 years ago after the sale of Mentmore, has sought wherever possible to preserve outstanding houses with their contents by aiding their transfer to the two National Trusts, to another charitable body or to English Heritage. Pitchford, the height of English vernacular architecture with its chateaux collected over such a remarkably long period, deserves no less.

Yours faithfully,
JENNIFER JENKINS,
2 Kensington Park Gardens, W11,
July 9.

Use of County Hall

From Mr Peter B. Rae

Sir, Location alone may never have meant much to the success of a place of learning; whereas the wrong one would spell the death of a hotel.

Perhaps Parliament and the London School of Economics should reflect on this when considering the fate of County Hall (letters, July 2, 6). As a Londoner I know that I would prefer to see a hotel in this prestigious location, secure in the knowledge that it will always be excellently maintained to attract visitors and ensure survival.

I would also look forward to visiting its restaurants and bars from whence to gaze on the mother of parliaments. I cannot see myself doing so from the cafeteria of a relocated LSE — even if access were granted.

Yours faithfully,
PETER B. RAE,
Rae & partners,
38 Devonshire Street, W1,
July 7.

Pedestrianised London

From Sir Nicholas Goodison

Sir, London is a wonderful city, but is being choked and polluted by road vehicles. Other cities and towns throughout Britain have introduced large-scale pedestrianisation to improve the quality of urban life.

Could someone at the top level of local government in central London explain why London has failed to emulate their success?

Yours faithfully,
NICHOLAS GOODISON
(Chairman),
TSB Group plc,
PO Box 33, 25 Milk Street, EC2,
July 6.

Business letters, page 23

Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 071-782 5046.



COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
July 9: His Excellency Mr Stone KBE received in audience by The Queen and presented the Letters of Recall of his predecessor and his own Letters of Commission as High Commissioner for Tonga in London.

His Excellency was accompanied by the following members of the High Commission: Mrs Mele Takapaulo (Counselor), Mrs Kaimama Aleamotu'a (First Secretary) and Mr Tevita Vaipuna (Third Secretary). Mrs Kite was also received by Her Majesty.

Sir David Gillmore (Permanent Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs) was present and the Household in Waiting were in attendance.

Mr Peter Heap was received in audience by The Queen and kissed hands upon his appointment as Her Majesty's Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary at Brasilia.

Mrs Heap was also received by Her Majesty.

Mr David Sprague was received in audience by The Queen upon his appointment as British High Commissioner to the Republic of Sierra Leone. Mrs Sprague was also received by The Queen.

The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh gave a Luncheon Party at Buckingham Palace for Members of the Order of Merit.

The following had the honour of being invited: Professor Dorothy Hodgkin and Dr Luke Hodgkin, The Lord and Lady Zuckerman, Sir Isaiah and Lady Berlin, Sir George Edwards, the Lord Todd, the Lord Cheshire VC, and the Baroness Ryder of Warsaw, the Rev Professor and Mrs Owen Chadwick, Professor Sir Andrew and Lady Huxley, Sir Sidney and Lady Nolan, Sir Michael Tippett, Dr and Mrs Frederick Sanger, Sir Yehudi and Lady Menuhin, Sir Ernst and Lady Gombrich, Dr and Mrs Max Perutz, Dr and Mrs Gladys Saunders, Professor the Lord and Lady Porter, the Baroness Thatcher, Dame Joan Sutherland, Professor and Mrs Francis Crick, Sir Edward Ford (Secretary and Registrar of the Order of Merit).

The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh were present at an afternoon party in the garden of Buckingham Palace given by the Central Council of Physical Recreation. The Prince Edward was also present.

Her Majesty's Body Guard of the Yeomen of the Guard were on duty. The Bands of the Welsh Guards and the Royal Anglian Regiment played selections of music during the afternoon.

The Duke of Edinburgh opened the sixth New Design Exhibition at the Business Design Centre, Upper Street, Islington, London N1, this morning. Lieutenant Commander Malcolm Sillars, RN, and Wing Commander Christopher Moran, RAF, were in attendance.

His Royal Highness Prince of Wales, Lord Federation of Boys' Clubs, this evening attended a Reception at Goldman Sachs International Ltd, 133 Fleet Street, London EC4, and later visited the Canterbury, Oxford and Bermuda Club, 3 Webb Street, London SE1, the Lynn Athletic Club, Wells Way, London SE5, and the Etheled Estate Community Youth Centre, Lollard Street, London SE11.

Brigadier Miles Hunt-Davis was in attendance.

July 9: The Prince Edward, Chairman of The Duke of Edinburgh's Award Special Forces Group, this evening held a Meeting at Buckingham Palace.

July 9: The Princess Royal this morning visited Leighton Hospital, Crewe, in celebration of their twentieth anniversary and opened the new CAT Scanner. Her Royal Highness was received by the Hon (Mrs) and Mrs Lord-Lieutenant of Cheshire.

The Princess Royal, Patron, the Quarry Bank Mill Trust Ltd, afterwards opened the new interactive Gallery "Waterforce" at

Quarry Bank Mill, Salford, Wiltshire, Cheshire. Her Royal Highness, Patron, the Butler Trust, this afternoon visited HM Prison Risley, Warrington Road, Risley, Warrington, Cheshire.

The Countess of Lichfield was in attendance.

The Princess Royal, Commandant-in-Chief, St John Ambulance and Nursing Cadets, attended the Safeway Summer Banquet at Brocket Hall, Welwyn, Hertfordshire.

Miss Victoria Legge-Bourke was in attendance.

CLARENCE HOUSE
July 9: Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother this morning visited the International Flower Show at Hampton Court Palace.

The Lady Margaret Colville was in attendance.

Her Majesty visited the Queen Elizabeth Hospital for Children, Hackney, this afternoon, and opened the 125th Anniversary celebrations in Haggerston Park.

The Lady Margaret Colville and Major Sir Ralph Anstruther, Bt, were in attendance.

KENSINGTON PALACE
July 9: The Prince of Wales, Duke of Cornwall, this morning received the Secretary of the Duchy (Mr David Landale).

His Royal Highness this afternoon visited Halifax and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant, West Yorkshire.

The Lord Ingham, The Prince of Wales visited Square Chapel, Winding Road, Finally His Royal Highness, Patron, Eureka! the Children's Museum, opened "Eureka!" at Discovery Road.

Lieutenant Commander Robert Fraser was in attendance.

July 9: The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon today visited Merseyside and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for Merseyside (Mr Henry Cowan).

Her Royal Highness opened the Headquarters Building of the Personal Service Society in Liverpool. The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon then visited the Liverpool Dental Hospital and, having been entertained to lunch, opened the new extension. Her Royal Highness later opened the Flower Festival at the Church of St Agnes with St Pancras, Liverpool.

The Lady Glenconner and Major The Lord Napier and Ettrick were in attendance.

July 9: The Duchess of Gloucester, Patron, the Royal Surgical Aid Society, this evening presented the "Good Food in Old Age" Awards at Draper's Hall, Throgmorton Avenue, London EC2. Mrs Howard Page was in attendance.

ST JAMES'S PALACE
July 9: The Duke of Kent this afternoon opened the Aids Trust National Assessment Centre, Cabot Lane, Poole and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for Dorset (The Lord Digby).

His Royal Highness, President, later visited the Royal National Lifeboat Institution Headquarters, Poole, and inspected the new Fast Aidboat Boat. The Duke visited the Army Trials Athletic Club, Wells Way, London SE5, and the Etheled Estate Community Youth Centre, Lollard Street, London SE11.

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The Queen Mother meets the public during a visit to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital for Children in Hackney, east London, yesterday. The hospital is celebrating its 125th anniversary

Today's royal engagements

The Queen will visit Kimberly-Clark's Colson Mill, Chelmsford, at 11.15; will visit the Dorsie Community Hospital, Chelmsford, at 12.15; will see a pageant at Overton-on-Dee at 2.30; and will visit Langolton Estate, Oxford, at 3.30.

The Duke of Edinburgh, as Patron of the Thrombosis Research Institute, will visit the Institute at the Emmanuel Kaye Building, Manresa Road, at 9.30; as president, will open the Duke of Edinburgh's Seventh Commonwealth Study Conference in Oxford at 2.15. The Duke of Kent, chairman of the UK Trusts, will also attend.

The Prince of Wales, as President of International Business in the Community, will hold a seminar on business and development at Highgrove House, Tetbury, Gloucestershire, at 10.25; and as Patron of Music in Country Churches, will attend a recital by Annie Sofie Von Otter at the Church of St Lawrence, Lechlade, Gloucestershire, at 7.55.

The Princess Royal will open the Windsor Rose and Horticultural Society Summer show in Windsor at noon.

Also a winner of the Tudor Rose award is a garden entitled "Waste Not Want Not", a joint project from garden designer Barbara Hunt of Staines, Surrey, and Soot Landscape, or Ottershaw, Surrey. The garden, which

shows how reclaimed materials can be used for the hard landscaping, has a subtle planting scheme, with the emphasis on attractive foliage.

The surprisingly wide range of plants used for making tea is demonstrated in the *Sunday Times* and *Chichester Blend* tea garden. Exhibits include a collection of minis, monarda (Oswego tea), lemon balm. The garden has been given a gold award.

The garden of reflection, to publicise the Anthony Nolan Bone Marrow Trust, is particularly popular with visitors and has also won a gold award. Amid a tranquil atmosphere, a steel pool is straddled by a hump-back stone bridge. The garden has a fairy tale theme, designed to highlight Anthony Nolan's short life, and the development of the trust's work.

The show is open from 10am to 7.30pm, and closes on Sunday at 6.30pm.

Horticulture
BR's railway garden is a model success

BY ALAN TOOGOOD, HORTICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

THE railway garden, from British Rail's Network South-East, has won the top prize, the Tudor Rose award, at the Hampton Court Palace International Flower Show, which opened yesterday.

Very different from the informal designs of previous years, this model-railway garden has a modern architectural look and features a long canal (mirroring the Longwater of Hampton Court Palace), straddled by a wall with a moongate, through which a waterfall can be seen. Terracotta coloured walls and paving provide a feeling of warmth in this exhibit, which has three raised tracks for the model trains.

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Plumbers' Company

Mr George Bambridge, Master of the Plumbers' Company, yesterday, at Ironmongers' Hall, presented the Lillie S. Barber memorial gold medal to Mr Christopher Northey, of Cornwall College, and a company medal to Mr Philip White, of Newcastle College. The winners were selected from students achieving the top six places in the 1991 City and Guilds Plumbing examinations.

The marriage will take place on Saturday, July 18, in Gloucester Cathedral at noon of Mark Andrew, elder son of Mr and Mrs A. Dunn, and Suzanne, only daughter of Mr and Mrs A. Barton, of Sheffield, Essex.

The engagement is announced between Daniel, eldest son of Mr and Mrs John Cottrell, of Redland, Bristol, and Bronwen, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs John Kenneth Price, of Charlton Kings, Cheltenham.

The engagement is announced between Martin Paul, son of Mr and Mrs G.W. Brooks, of Kenley, Surrey, and Cressida Mary, daughter of Captain D.S. Leggett, RN, and Mrs Leggett, of Wimbledon.

The engagement is announced between Richard, son of Mr and Mrs I.W.G. Proctor, of West Malling, Kent, and Sherri, daughter of Mr and Mrs R.H. Henshale, of Wiltshire Station, Victoria, Australia.

The engagement is announced between Marina Jane, eldest daughter of Canon, and Mrs Anthony Harvey, of Chichester, and Mark James, son of Mr and Mrs James Taylor, of Christchurch, New Zealand.

The engagement is announced between Charles, eldest son of Mr and Mrs T. White, of Lide, London, Hampshire, and Emma, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs N.E. Brown, of Leamington Spa, Warwickshire.

The engagement is announced between Michael, younger son of the late Sir David Williams, Bt, of Mole Path House, Woking, and Charlotte, only daughter of Captain and Mrs Malcolm Syms, of Mole Path House, Woking.

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Pattenmakers' Company

At a company meeting of the Pattenmakers' Company held last night at Butchers' Hall, Mr R.P. Shepherd, Master, presented Miss Christine Salbeck with the Patten Memorial Bursary as part of the Pattenmakers' Young Manager Development Scheme.

The marriage will take place on Saturday, July 18, in Gloucester Cathedral at noon of Mark Andrew, elder son of Mr and Mrs A. Dunn, and Suzanne, only daughter of Mr and Mrs A. Barton, of Sheffield, Essex.

The engagement is announced between Daniel, eldest son of Mr and Mrs John Cottrell, of Redland, Bristol, and Bronwen, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs John Kenneth Price, of Charlton Kings, Cheltenham.

The engagement is announced between Martin Paul, son of Mr and Mrs G.W. Brooks, of Kenley, Surrey, and Cressida Mary, daughter of Captain D.S. Leggett, RN, and Mrs Leggett, of Wimbledon.

The engagement is announced between Richard, son of Mr and Mrs I.W.G. Proctor, of West Malling, Kent, and Sherri, daughter of Mr and Mrs R.H. Henshale, of Wiltshire Station, Victoria, Australia.

The engagement is announced between Marina Jane, eldest daughter of Canon, and Mrs Anthony Harvey, of Chichester, and Mark James, son of Mr and Mrs James Taylor, of Christchurch, New Zealand.

The engagement is announced between Charles, eldest son of Mr and Mrs T. White, of Lide, London, Hampshire, and Emma, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs N.E. Brown, of Leamington Spa, Warwickshire.

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The engagement is announced

OBITUARIES

FRANCIS PERRIN

Francis Perrin, head of the French atomic energy commission, 1951-70, and father of the French atomic bomb, died on July 4 aged 90. He was born in Paris on August 17, 1901.

IN HIS twenty years as high commissioner for atomic energy, Francis Perrin gave France its independent nuclear deterrent (*force de frappe*) and its nuclear power station programme. Paradoxically he was never particularly enthusiastic about a French atom bomb, retaining to the end of his life strongly left-wing socialist, pacifist and atheist principles. But when France's prime minister Pierre Mendès France decided to launch the French atom bomb programme in 1954 he carried Perrin with him through his argument that nuclear-armed nations had greater weight in the world's deliberations than those which had no bomb. In the climate of international distrust of the 1950s in which no nuclear limitation treaties seemed at all likely the argument was decisive with Perrin.

Francis Perrin grew up in a background from which it would have been difficult to emerge as anything other than a nuclear physicist. His father was Jean-Baptiste Perrin whose study of the Brownian motion of minute particles confirmed the atomic nature of matter. This feat earned him the 1926 Nobel prize for physics. Léon Blum called him the "French Einstein". In Paris the Curies were next door neighbours in the Rue Kellermann and the two families took their summer holidays together in Brittany. Pierre and Marie Curie's son-in-law Frédéric Joliot-Curie was a childhood friend and, later, scientific mentor (and he subsequently preceded Perrin as head of the French atomic energy commission).

In this intense atmosphere Perrin's development was rapid. He took a doctorate at 21 and after working on fluorescence collaborated, from 1932, on nuclear physics with Joliot-Curie. At the age of 34 he was a professor at the Sorbonne. In these years Perrin contributed significantly to the understanding of



chain reactions. It was a brilliant era for French nuclear physics. Besides the Curies, men like von Halban, Kowarski and Auger (whose sister, Colette, Perrin married in 1926) constituted a pool of talent which very nearly carried France to the atomic bomb in the years before 1939.

The outbreak of war obviated such a possibility. Perrin joined the army and became an officer in a searchlight battery. When France fell her nuclear physicists fled and were dispersed: von Halban and

Kowarski (with the valuable French reserves of heavy water) to Britain; Joliot-Curie out of sight into the Resistance; Perrin to the United States. For two years he taught at Columbia University but at the same time kept in close touch with the Free French headquarters in New York. When the Free French cause began to prosper in a tangible manner he returned across the Atlantic to become a deputy in the provisional assemblies of Algiers and then Paris.

At the end of the war he returned

to academic life as professor of physics at the Collège de France. In the meantime Joliot-Curie (who with his wife Irène Curie had won the 1935 Nobel prize for physics) had become head of the nascent French atomic energy authority. But by 1951 his strongly-held pacifist views and his membership of the Communist party made his position untenable. He was dismissed but specified at the same time that his friend Perrin should succeed him.

Fortunately for France this counsel was heeded and Perrin took over the higher direction of the French effort to produce nuclear energy for warlike and peaceful purposes for the next twenty years. France had been totally excluded from the American and British nuclear programmes of the second world war and was hence, in spite of the pioneering pre-war work of its scientists, left stranded and alone. Perrin's role was twofold. The man of science led research while the administrator organised programmes and lobbied the French government ceaselessly for an increase in the numbers of scientists and the funding of facilities.

Once Mendès France had given the go-ahead for the production of a French atom bomb progress was swift and the first test was conducted on de Gaulle's say-so in the Sahara early in 1960. Characteristically, Perrin refused to wax chauvinistic about this achievement and in a burst of courageous candour admitted that the French test added "nothing" to scientific knowledge. Indeed his role at the very pinnacle of matters so germane to French security never prevented him from expressing himself. For example, he took part in the left-wing demonstration in Paris against the Algiers revolt in 1958. But he never allowed his politics to interfere with his work. If the governments of the Fourth Republic wanted a bomb, he would see that they got it.

Throughout his period at the head of the French atomic energy commission, which also saw the exponential growth of France's atomic power station programme, Perrin retained his chair at the Collège de

France, thus remaining closely in touch with the world of academic research. His intellectual honesty earned him a high reputation in the international community of nuclear scientists. At the second UN conference on the peaceful uses of atomic energy at Geneva in 1958 he astonished the 6,700 participants by recommending the unreserved disclosure of even the most precious nuclear secrets, claiming that it was possible anyway. This earned him a standing ovation from his distinguished audience.

After his retirement from his government and academic posts in 1970 he became more openly sceptical about the nuclear path down which his country was treading. When French testing moved to the Pacific he said it ought to be halted and that France should sign the nuclear test ban treaty. In 1973, in a joint statement with Alfred Kastler, director of research at France's national centre of scientific research, he claimed that the much-prized *force de frappe* "could hardly have a dissuading power...for if we used it, a quarter of an hour later France would no longer exist". In 1980 he issued strong public warnings about French nuclear cooperation with Iraq and in 1986 caused another sensation when he admitted that France had given Israel nuclear technology to enable it to build its own atomic bomb.

These were not, perhaps, statements of a sort to be expected from the man whose knowledge and energy had enabled France to stake a claim to be heard with respect even by the superpowers in the councils of the world. But they were of a piece with a mentality which never staled and with his belief in freedom as a practice, not merely as a concept. Perrin remained a radical to the end. His academic eminence, his services to his country and his Grand Cross of the Legion of Honour notwithstanding, one of the honours of which he remained most proud was his presidency of the Union of Atheists.

There were two sons and a daughter of his marriage to Colette Auger.

APPRECIATIONS

Lord Winterbottom



THE career of Ian Winterbottom (obituary, July 8) was of interest, in that it mirrored the changing relationship of political parties to the English whig-liberal tradition. In defying the Victorian whig's injunction to "damn your principles, stick to your party", he remained consistently loyal to that tradition. As such, he earned his footnote in the history of the parties. He was also largely vindicated — for the great lesson of English politics, as John Major demonstrated in April, is that the party best able to harness the English liberal instinct can expect realistically to enjoy office.

Although raised in the Georgian splendour of the Northamptonshire house of the 18th century Earls of Halifax, he was taught early to combine a genuine affection for the idiosyncrasies of ordinary people with a zest for business.

His father, who had declined a peerage offered by Lloyd George's coalition government, had preferred to live as a country gentleman, serving as High Sheriff and Justice of the Peace. Ian, however, while living in Northamptonshire, was true to his Yorkshire roots, possessing a liberal optimism that governed both his commercial enterprises and his faith in the inherent capacities of the mass of the people. It was not idiosyncratic.

Toby Horton

John Piper

MUCH of what you say in the obituary of John Piper (June 30) — his enthusiasm, his love of England, his generosity, his faith, his vision — are encapsulated by his vice-presidency of Romney Marsh Historic Churches Trust.

As chairman of the council of that body, I hope I may find space in your columns to express our immense debt to him. John Piper was a material influence in bringing to the attention of a generation the singular and evocative landscape of the Marsh, using both word and image in his book *Romney Marsh* (1950, King Penguin) to portray the

interaction of building and landscape.

With Richard Ingrams and Archibald Nisbet, he sounded in your columns a clarion call to save the churches of the Marsh (letters, December 5, 1981), a call which led directly to the formation of this trust, and which played no small role in its success. In later years he generously donated to the trust the copyright in a remarkable series of postcard views of Marsh churches. His impact upon our tiny cause in one small corner of England is itself a spotlight upon the magnitude of his many and diverse successes.

Nicholas Hudd

Lord Kearton

I WONDER if I might add a word to your obituary of Lord Kearton (July 6) which, excellent though it was, did not mention his considerable contribution to East-West commercial relations?

Both as chairman of Courtauld, which did substantial business with the USSR and Eastern Europe, and later as chairman of the East European Trade Council, Frank Kearton was widely known and respected throughout the area.

In his latter capacity I had the privilege of accompanying him on a number of his forays behind the Iron Cur-

tain, as it then was, and never ceased to marvel at his brilliant touch in dealing with immense tact and charm, with even the most precarious situations.

It is perhaps a measure of Frank's success that when he relinquished the chairmanship of Courtauld he received a *lexis* of enormous length from Nikolai Patolichev, that redoubtable Soviet minister of foreign trade, recalling past achievements and wishing him well at BNOC.

Patolichev's message may have been sentimental but it spoke volumes — for both men.

Anthony Hore

GORDON WATKINS

Gordon Watkins, television producer, died on July 3 aged 72. He was born on January 22, 1920.

GORDON Watkins was one of the six founder-producers in 1957 of the ground-breaking television programme *Tonight*; he went on to co-produce *The Great War*, an ambitious 26-part series on the first world war which set what is still a benchmark for historical television documentaries.

When *Tonight* was first transmitted in 1957, its format was an original mixture — filmed news-features, studio interviews on subjects as varied as pigeon fancying, politics, films and foreign affairs, together with guitar-strumming folk singers. The other five founder-producers of *Tonight* were already working in television but Watkins came straight from print journalism.

He had been working on the magazine *Picture Post* where he had acquired the disciplines and standards of the best sort of journalism including not simply the technical skills but also the principles of balance and fairness. After having established a bridgehead at the Lime Grove studios, he was quickly followed by former colleagues Fyfe Robertson, Slim Hewitt, Kenneth Allsop and Trevor Philpot.

Gordon Watkins was a natural journalist — interested in everything, inquisitive about everything and enthusiastic in passing on what he had found out in the most interesting way. He had all the instincts of the village gossip channelled into a professional occupation.

Picture Post had taught him how to use words to complement pictures and he swiftly learned to adapt the printed word to television's demotic style of language — language intended to be heard as conversation rather than read as prose. He had very little to do with the technical aspects of the medium, such as studio and film direction. He devoted his energies to the craft of story-telling and the skills of interviewing.

The production team, which was headed by Donald Baverstock and included Watkins, was the first to make television programmes on the run and pioneered techniques termed "conversations enhanced by movement". However, the shortage of film resources made *Tonight* heavily dependent on studio interviews and it was here that Watkins made his great contribution to the programme's success. *Tonight* was the first programme to tackle effectively the difficulties of television interviewing. The five or six questions posed in each studio confront-



tation would be the result of hours of intensive research and argument by the interviewer and a producer.

Every morning Watkins was enthusiastically and energetically engaged in chasing up film, still-pictures and potential interviewees; every afternoon he was closeted with one of the presenters working out sequences of questions or alone in his office

writing commentary. He never expected the viewer to be interested in any item he was working on; he always saw it as his job to make them interested.

Transmitted at 6.5 pm, *Tonight* quickly attracted a mass audience, which rose to seven million, and created a host of new television stars: Cliff Michelmore, the anchorman, Alan Wicker, the

roving reporter, and a versatile team of reporters. After being educated at Ampleforth Watkins left school at 17 to become a junior reporter on the *Bedfordshire Standard*. His journalistic career was interrupted by the second world war. He joined the Derbyshire Yeomanry, became a captain and served as an intelligence officer and a war correspondent with the 1st Army in North Africa and was later present during the Monte Cassino battles.

After the war he went up to Oxford, graduating in 1949. He then became a sub-editor on the *Birmingham Gazette* and a year later joined *Picture Post*.

One of Watkins's discoveries while on *Tonight* was the rich vein of wonderful archive film in the library of the Imperial War Museum. He exploited it shamelessly for any anniversary they could think of and it led to another of Watkins's great successes.

After seven years with *Tonight*, Watkins was commissioned along with Tony Essex to produce *The Great War*, at the time the most extensive and expensive documentary the BBC had tackled. He brought to it not just the skills of a picture journalist but insights into war drawn from his experiences as a wartime captain and set standards

equal to those of a scholarly historian. Watkins recruited a team of historians and acted as editor.

First transmitted in 1964, *The Great War* distilled a conflict lasting 1,551 days into 17 hours of television. Although, perhaps inevitably, the series provoked lively debate between old generals and military historians, Watkins's spare and literate script managed to avoid over-simplification without becoming bogged down in detail and was widely regarded as well-balanced.

As he progressed up through the BBC Watkins became more and more an editor and a developer of new writers, or writers new to the medium. He instigated a series of dramatised documentaries on a selection of famous explorers which won two BAFTA awards. His final large-scale project was *Ireland — a television history* which he completed in 1981.

His success was due as much to his personal as his professional qualities: his generosity of spirit, his capacity for instant friendship and the mischievous twinkle in his eye that made him such a well-loved colleague also made him an effective and respected teacher.

He is survived by his wife, a son, two daughters and a foster son.

Church news

Professor David McLean is to be Deputy Chancellor of the diocese of Sheffield.

Clergy appointments

The Rev David Austerberry, Rector, Kinnerley and Melverley and Kinnerley in Messbrook: to be also Rural Dean of Coneworth (Leicestershire).

The Rev Dennis Brett, Priest-in-charge, Bishopstrow and Boreham: to be also Chaplain, Warmistone Hospital (Salisbury).

The Rev Kenneth Bromage, non-stipendiary Minister, Woolpit in Drinkstone (St Edmundsbury and Ipswich): to be Royal Navy Chaplain.

The Rev Michael Burke, Assistant Curate, St James, Arston: to be Vicar, St Columba, Crosspool (Sheffield).

The Rev John Casselton, Vicar, St John's Ipswich, and Rural Dean of Ipswich: to be Chaplain, St Clements Hospital and St Elizabeth Hospital, Ipswich (St Edmundsbury and Ipswich).

The Rev Douglas Cockbill, Priest-in-charge, St Andrew, Roxbourne: to be Vicar, St Andrew, Roxbourne (London).

The Rev Robert Daborn, Priest-in-charge, Tiberton and Bolas Magna and Waters Upton: to be also Priest-in-charge, Childs Erroll and Stoke on Tern, held in plurality (Lichfield).

The Rev Timothy Daykin, Vicar, Valley Park: to be Priest-in-charge, Fordingbridge (Winchester).

The Rev Canon Ian Dunlop, retired Canon Chancellor, Salisbury Cathedral: to be a Canon Emeritus of Salisbury Cathedral (Salisbury).

The Rev Paul David Duxson, Diocesan Adult Education Officer, and Vicar, Sherthorne (Lichfield): to be Canon Chancellor of Salisbury Cathedral (Salisbury).

The Rev William Elliot, Assistant Priest, Holy Trinity, Hereford (Hereford): to be Chaplain, Holy Trinity, Corfu, Greece (Europe).

The Rev Andrew Fenn, Assistant Curate, Epping, St John: to be Team Vicar, Carney Island Team Ministry (Chelmsford).

The Rev Richard Frank, Team Rector, Greythorne: to be also Convener of non-stipendiary ministers (Carlisle).

The Rev Canon John Giles, Canon Residentiary at Sheffield Cathedral (Sheffield): to be vicar, The Good Shepherd, Lee (Southwark).

The Rev Peter Grigby, Assistant Curate within the Brayton Team Ministry, w Special responsibility for Thorpe Willoughby: to be Team Vicar, Brayton Team Ministry (York).

The Rev David Hastings, former Priest-in-charge, and Rector Designate, Lower Wyke and Till Valley: to be Rector, Lower Wyke and Till Valley (Salisbury).

The Rev Nicholas Helm, Assistant Curate, Old Fort St Paul w St Stephen and St Mark

(London): to be Team Vicar (Priest-in-charge designate), St Bartholomew's, Netherlands (Sheffield).

The Rev Mark Inman, formerly Chaplain to HM Colony, Hollesley Bay: to be Priest-in-charge, Alderson w Ramshill and Bewley, Sharnham w Sutton (St Edmundsbury and Ipswich).

The Rev Alan Jones, Assistant Curate, Parkstone St Peter w Branksea and St Osmund Team Ministry: to be also Anglican Chaplain, St Edward's Church School, Poole (Salisbury).

The Rev Nigel Lloyd, Rector, Lynton Marston: to be Team Rector, Parkstone St Peter w Branksea and St Osmund Team Ministry (Salisbury).

The Rev Glensy Lloyd, Team Minister, Stoke Aldermoor (Leicestershire): to be Resident Minister, Childs Erroll and Stoke on Tern (Lichfield).

The Rev David Marshall, Vicar, St George's, Newcastle, Staffs (Lichfield): to be Chaplain, St Mark's, Versailles, France (Europe).

The Rev Canon Ronald Michinson, Diocesan Industrial Missioner (Oxford): to be Chaplain for the Selby Coalfield, and Team Vicar, Brayton Team Ministry (York).

The Rev Leonard Olyott, retiring as Archdeacon of Taunton: to be Archdeacon Emeritus of Taunton (Bath and Wells).

The Rev Michael Pain, Team Rector, Melbourn Team Ministry: to be also Chaplain, Melbourn Hospital (Salisbury).

The Rev Stephen Pickering, Chaplain, Royal Navy Hospital, Haslar: to be Priest-in-charge, new conventional district of St Nicholas, Ryecroft (Sheffield).

The Rev John Self, formerly Presbyter in charge, Khipro parish, Church of Pakistan (Hyderabad): to be Vicar, St John the Evangelist, Sparkbrook (Birmingham).

The Rev Warren Sellers, Honorary Priest, All Saints, Fleet, and Headmaster, St Peter's Junior School, Farnborough (Guildford): to be Team Vicar, Upper Kennet Team Ministry (Salisbury).

The Rev John R. Smith, Vicar, Wharfedale St Mary, Doncaster: to be Rector, Barnburgh w Melton on the Hill (Sheffield).

The Rev Martin Snellgrove, Assistant Curate, All Saints, Four Oaks: to be Team Vicar, St John the Evangelist, Debenham w St Asaph (St Asaph).

The Rev William Stewart, Vicar, Oulton Broad: to be also Rural Dean of Louth (Lincoln).

The Rev Dr Brian Twigg, Team Vicar, New Windsor (Oxford): to be Vicar, St Cuthbert's, Fir Vale, Sheffield (Sheffield).

The Rev Canon Michael Walker, Vicar, St Mary's, Busby St Edmundsbury and Ipswich).

The Rev Christine Warrillow, Assistant Curate, Oswald, Northerton: to be Parish Deacon, St Jude, Stockbridge Village (Liverpool).

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: John Calvin, Protestant reformer, Noyon, France, 1509; Mrs Aphra Behn, dramatist and novelist, Wye, Kent, 1640; Frederick Marryat, novelist, London, 1792; Camille Pissarro, painter, St Thomas, Virgin Islands, 1831; James McNeill Whistler, painter, Lowell, Massachusetts, 1834; Marcel Proust, novelist, Auteuil, France, 1871; Carl Orff, composer, Munich, 1895.

DEATHS: Hadrian, Roman emperor, 117-138, Baiae, Italy, 138; El Cid, Spanish patriot, Valencia, 1099; William the Silent, Prince of Orange, assassinated, Delft, 1584; George Stubbs, painter, London, 1806; Louis Daguerre, physicist, painter and inventor of the daguerrotype, Bry-sur-Marne, 1851; Joe Davis, world champion snooker player, Grayshott, Hampshire, 1906; Tommy Trinder, comedian, 1989.

The Allies landed in Sicily, 1943. The first parking meters came into operation in London, 1958.

Appointments

The Marchioness of Anglesey and Ms Yvonne Brewster to be mistresses of the Theatre Trust; Mr Peter Plover to be Deputy Chairman.

Lord Walker

The life barony conferred upon Mr Peter Edward Walker has been gazetted by the name, style and title of Baron Walker of Worcester, of Abbots Morton in the County of Hereford and Worcester.

University news

Oxford

BALLOUT COLLEGE

Elections

To Honorary Fellowships: Professor J.P. Blandy, Professor J. Carey, Mr J.O. Fairfax, Sir Donald MacDougall, Mr J.V.G. Mallet, Senator P.S. Sarbanes.

EMERITUS

Honorary degrees are to be conferred on the following:

Professor Jean Blondel, founding professor of government at the university and now professor of political science at the European University Institute, Florence.

Lord Bullock, founding master of St Catherine's College, Oxford.

Professor Kenneth Cattermole, founding professor of telecommunications systems at Essex.

Professor Mary Douglas, former professor of social anthropology at University College London.

Professor Jean Franco, formerly professor of literature at Essex and now professor of Spanish and Portuguese at Columbia University, New York.

Mrs Leah Levin, director of justice, British section of the International Commission of Jurists.

Professor Sir Frederick Warner, visiting professor in the departments of law and chemistry and biological chemistry at Essex.

Lord Amery

The life barony conferred upon Mr Julian Amery has been gazetted by the name, style and title of Baron Amery of Ludleigh, of Preston in the County of Lancashire and of Brighton in the County of East Sussex.



Fun run: one youth falls unhurt during the bull run through Pamplona yesterday. The other escaped when a swerving bull's horn pierced his shirt. Nobody was gored

Firms back charter to ban HIV test on applicants

Continued from page 1

divers, they would be referred for medical counselling and advice. She could not confirm the number of applicants who have been rejected as a result of such testing. A comprehensive help package was available for employees found to be suffering from Aids. "We are certainly not discriminating against anyone," a spokeswoman said.

NM Rothschild, the City merchant bank, is one of 16 founder signatories to Companies act, a business charter on Aids and HIV designed to encourage companies to adopt non-discriminatory policies.

Other British companies to endorse the charter include Body Shop, GEC, IBM, London Weekend Television, Marks & Spencer, Midland Bank, National Westminster Bank and J Sainsbury. Sir Evelyn de Rothschild, chairman of NM Rothschild and a trustee of the National Aids Trust, said companies had a responsibility to treat HIV sufferers fairly. "Fair play and looking after them as human beings is what we request."

The stance taken by Texaco

and British Airways flies in the face of employment department guidelines which urge companies to adopt non-discriminatory policies concerning HIV.

The department said tests were not always reliable. It was also possible that employees who tested positive could go on to work normally for ten years or more. "The only company we know of who test for HIV is Texaco and the ones that do usually have US parent companies."

The Terrence Higgins Trust, the Aids charity, condemned pre-employment testing and said the practice



De Rothschild: seeks fair play for all

may be more widespread than is thought at present. James Glass, head of direct services, said: "We would disagree with the principle of pre-employment testing. There may well be other firms testing for HIV status."

An "Americans with Disability Act" implemented six months ago makes it illegal under federal law for companies to discriminate between potential employees by screening for the HIV virus (Ben Macintyre writes from New York).

If HIV was used as a factor in deciding not to give someone a job, then the company would be liable for prosecution, the Aids Action Council in Washington DC said. The council said that since the law was passed "relatively recently" there have been no test cases.

United For Aids Action, a lobby group for HIV sufferers, recently called on the presidential contenders to "show that mandatory testing and HIV-related discrimination are un-American and unacceptable". Mandatory HIV testing is enforced in the Federal Job Corps programme, the military and federal prisons.

Body Shop wins back stores

Continued from page 1

seventeenth century converted farm house at Effingham, Surrey, and who has been described in the past as a millionaire, was now hopelessly in debt, the judge said. He refused to suspend his order pending consideration of an appeal.

After the hearing, Mrs Rawle said: "It is absolutely untrue that I ever compared myself to God. I just want to go away and think about this. I have got to gather my thoughts."

A spokesman for Body Shop, of which Mrs Roddick is chief executive and main shareholder, said: "We are very pleased for the staff, among other things. They have been through a hell of a lot. Now we have got to decide what to do next. But I must stress that the staff will be looked after."

Mrs Rawle joined the Body Shop organisation, which notches up sales of £300 million at 770 shops in 41 countries, more than 11 years ago when she opened her first branch at Canterbury. The six shops, on which she held franchises and reputed to be worth £5 million, are part of a UK chain of 221 branches.

Bosnia leader asks for military help

Continued from page 1

open genocide against civilians, and said 27 concentration camps had been set up in Serb-occupied territory.

Yugoslavia dominated the first day of the summit, although the rump state of Yugoslavia was not present. Serbia and Montenegro have been suspended from the CSCE until October 14.

Barbara McDougall, Canada's foreign minister, compared "ethnic cleansing" to Nazi atrocities. "Now we are witnessing similar horror daily. Are we going to let racist and expansionist ideologies prevail?" she asked.

Dr Mauno Koivisto, the Finnish president, said in opening the conference that it was deeply concerned about relentless violence against civilians. "In the name of humanity, we appeal to all those responsible to agree to credible and lasting ceasefires."

The Western European Union and Nato will hold full ministerial meetings here today to discuss Yugoslavia. The WEU is expected to step up the enforcement of sanctions, including naval and air support. Britain has said that HMS Nottingham is standing by in the Adriatic ready to

monitor movements into the fighting zone.

The conference also looked at violence elsewhere, especially in the former Soviet Union. Foreign ministers of Germany, Czechoslovakia and Sweden, representing the trinity of past, present and future chairmen of the CSCE, said that a mission of about 100 military observers could soon be sent to Nagorno-Karabakh under the new peacekeeping procedures agreed by the summit.

John Major, arriving late yesterday evening, was due to meet President Kravchuk of Ukraine, Eduard Shevardnadze of Georgia and Carl Bildt, the Swedish prime minister.

Together with other leaders he will sign a series of documents today, the culmination of three months of negotiations to transform the CSCE from an East-West meeting to promote détente into a pan-European enabling organisation that will be able to respond to threats to European security by deploying a range of political, diplomatic and military forces.

Sarajevo fears, page 12
Why G1 Joe says no, page 14

Political sketch

Stranded out on the left in a PVS

On BBC breakfast television yesterday morning was a thoughtful report about the ethical dilemma raised by patients in a state of incurable coma: brain-dead but otherwise stable. The syndrome is called PVS: "persistently vegetative state". In this condition a person may live for years with no prospect of return to sentient life, yet still breathing. When should life support be terminated? How long do we wait before throwing the switch?

Much the same question arises as to the Official Opposition. Though it may defy belief to hear it, I must tell you that yesterday, with the prime minister abroad and PM's questions taken by the leader of the House, with the British economy going (on the account of many) down the pan; and with the previous prime minister (now in the Lords) calling for a cut in interest rates which (on the account of many) the German Bundesbank will not permit, it was left to a senior Tory backbencher to make the government front bench squirm.

Sir Peter Tapsell (C. Lindsey B) did it in characteristic style. Your sketchwriter is an unashamed anthropologist of the sayings of Sir Peter. To a front bench who had protested that history would prove him right, he once retorted "History, Mr Speaker, may have other things on its mind." During a session of PM's questions that was more than usually nauseating for its sycophancy, one "planted" question from Tory backbenches following another, Sir Peter turned directly to the Speaker and confessed that he had a question he had thought up all on his own.

Tapsell watched as Labour's Jack Cunningham, standing in for the absent Neil Kinnock, rose to question Tony Newton. Dr Cunningham could have asked about Lady Thatcher's reported outburst. If he did, the question would need to be short and sharp, offering Newton no chance of escaping into the undergrowth. Or Cunningham could ask the related question about the Germans. That, equally, would have to be to the point. Or he could enquire generally, but in strong language, about the state of the domestic economy. Newton would be able

to hum and hah, but probably unpersuasively.

But Dr Cunningham's questioning tried to touch all these bases and failed to touch any one of them with the necessary clarity. It was all about Munich, the G7, Lady Thatcher, economic catastrophe and the need for new policies. Why, started Cunningham (who was Labour's campaign coordinator during the last election) had Mr Major failed to secure his objectives abroad? Newton could have asked Cunningham about his own objectives closer to home, but instead made the point that there were seven in the G7. Cunningham moved to a general rant about Lady Thatcher and the mess we were all in, giving Newton time to think up a halfway decent bluster about "secure foundations", and prospects for "the latter part of the year".

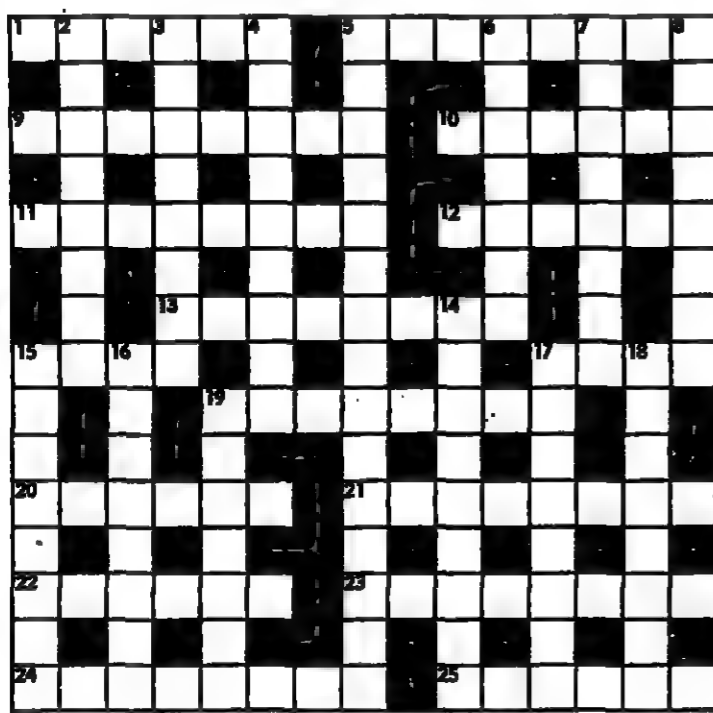
Nobody won. It was, like so many front-bench exchanges in recent years, without focus; without the self-discipline which marks a successful verbal volley. It was without style. Answers from the government front bench often sound as though they were put together by a committee. Official answers often do. They are. That gives Opposition a chance to score with questions bearing the stamp of a single human intelligence. For years, Labour has been missing the opportunity. Perhaps a lack of any clear intellectual direction of its own is to blame?

So it was left to Sir Peter. Since this country has been determining its money supply for several centuries, why do government ministers suddenly find they cannot do this by themselves without their hands being held by a group of German bank clerks?

On the left, right, or centre of the Labour party are people capable of asking questions with this style and clarity; but to try to speak for the whole spectrum lands you, like Dr Cunningham, floundering in a mess of violent language and timid argument. It would be a private misfortune, except that there are limited bed-spaces to the left of Madam Speaker, and the patients are not getting any better.

MATTHEW PARRIS

THE TIMES CROSSWORD PUZZLE NO 18,967



WORD WATCH

A daily safari through the language jungle. Which definitions are correct?
By Philip Howard

MISKENY

- Harvest of strangers
- Aversion to cows
- The marshland Bog Borge

DESIDIUS

- Wandering, leading
- Shedful or lazy
- Shedding its leaves at autumn

SILENTIARY

- An officer for lunch
- The dark of the Moon
- A terminal dangles

DOMINICAL

- To do with pedagogy
- Pertaining to Sunday
- A fecal cleavage

Answers on page 16

AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic and roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0836 401 followed by the appropriate code.

London & SE
C. London (within N & S Circs)
M-ways/roads M1 M23
M-ways/roads M4 M23
M25 London Orbital only

National
National motorways
West Country
Wales
Midlands
East Anglia
North-west England
North-east England
Scotland
Northern Ireland

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WEATHER

Northwest Scotland will be rather cloudy with showers. The rest of Scotland should be dry with bright or sunny spells, with the best of the sunshine in the east. Northern England will be quite cloudy at first, but mostly dry, with brighter spells developing. Further south, outbreaks of rain will become confined to southeast England. Outlook: unsettled with rain or showers.

ABROAD

MIDDAY: (w)under, (d)izzle, (g)fog, (s)un, (s)leet, (s)now, (s)leet, (s)leet, (s)leet

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● BUSINESS 19-26
● INFOTECH TIMES 27

BUSINESS TIMES

FRIDAY JULY 10 1992

SPORT
30-34

BUSINESS EDITOR JOHN BELL

TODAY IN
BUSINESS
FREE SHARE



Abbey National is seeking "lost" shareholders in the former building society who are eligible for free shares.
Page 21

BANK BACK-UP

Improved efforts by banks to support troubled firms may have helped reduce the number of insolvencies in the second quarter.
Page 21

BUY BUZZ



Jeyes Group, known for its household cleaning and insect-killing products, goes on the acquisition trail in Germany.
Tempos, page 20

POWER SURGE

Scottish Hydro-Electric, the privatised power company, has exceeded City forecasts on profits and dividends.
Tempos, page 20

TOMORROW



Nothing pensioners can say or do will make MGN's new chairman, Sir Robert Clark, lose his cool at the annual meeting, Carol Leonard writes.

THE POUND

US dollar 1.9070 (-0.0167)
German mark 2.8729 (-0.0005)
Exchange index 92.6 (-0.2)
Bank of England official close (4pm)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 share 1913.9 (+22.8)
FT-SE 100 2497.9 (+25.3)
New York Dow Jones 3317.86 (+24.58)
Tokyo Nikkei Avg 16848.86 (+248.40)

INTEREST RATES

London Bank Base: 10%
3-month interbank: 10 1/4-10 1/2%
3-month eligible bills: 9 1/4-9 1/2%
US: Prime Rate: 8%
Federal Funds: 3 1/4%
3-month Treasury Bills: 3.22-3.25%
30-year bonds: 10 1/4-10 1/2%

CURRENCIES

London: £/\$ 1.9064
New York: £/\$ 1.9050
£/DM 2.8733
DM/\$ 1.9150
£/SF 2.0014
SF/\$ 1.9375
£/FF 6.5547
FF/\$ 16.6633
£/Yen 166.25
Yen/\$ 153.70
£/Index 92.6
Index/\$ 92.6
ECU: £0.71733
SDR: £0.748018
£/SFR 166.6667
£/DM 2.873333
London Forex market close

GOLD

London Fixing: AM \$347.25 PM \$347.25
Close \$347.25-348.30
\$183.00-183.50
New York: COMEX \$348.25-348.75

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Jul) \$19.75/cbl (\$19.95)

RETAIL PRICES

RPI: 139.3 May (1987=100)
* Denotes May trading prices

SIB considered closing regulator

Imro attacked for Maxwell funds failure

By ANGELA MACKAY

THE Securities and Investments Board yesterday condemned the role played by Imro, the pension funds regulator, in the Maxwell affair and admitted that it had considered closing it.

Despite Imro's obvious failure as a regulator of the Maxwell funds, SIB said it could continue as pension funds monitor as long as its function was strengthened. SIB, which watches over self-regulatory bodies, said it did consider "withdrawing recognition" from Imro.

While Imro shouldered most of the blame for not detecting serious breaches of practice at Bishopsgate Investment Management and London and Bishopsgate International Investment Management, two companies involved in running Maxwell pension funds, SIB said it had to reconsider whether its "way of carrying out its supervisory role was appropriate" and admitted there was "a shortfall in regulatory standards at Imro which SIB had not identified".

The Maxwell Pensioners Action Group said it was "staggered" that both Imro and SIB had concluded that Bishopsgate Investment Management had been properly admitted to membership of Imro. There had been "a clear failure of self-regulation".

Andrew Large, SIB's new chairman, said action was

being taken on three fronts to tighten regulation after the scandal in which the late Robert Maxwell pilfered more than £450 million from his employees' pension funds.

In a written reply to a parliamentary question, Norman Lamont, Chancellor of the Exchequer, said he had ordered Mr Large to review how SIB carries out its responsibilities under the Financial Services Act 1986. Mr Lamont said the government was "very seriously concerned" about the shortcomings identified in the pensions watchdog.

Mr Lamont said: "The Maxwell affair was wholly exceptional - the vast majority of pension funds have served their members very well... but the government is determined that all the lessons of the Maxwell affair must be learned and implemented."

A spokesman for the Maxwell Pensioners Action Group said he was disappointed that SIB was not publishing the Imro report in full. He added that there had been "a clear failure of self-regulation" and it was time the government made "appropriate reparation to those pensioners who had been defrauded".

Michael Meacher, shadow secretary of state for social security, said the SIB report acknowledged that the government's regulatory regime failed at every level and called

on the government to make up the pensioners' losses in full.

Imro's admission that it fell short of its standards as a regulator has resulted in the resignation of George Nissen, its chairman. John Morgan, chief executive, also appears to be leaving earlier than planned.

Sections of the Imro report were published with SIB's assessment but the bulk of it was withheld for fear of prejudicing pending legal action. SIB has, however, given the report to the Serious Fraud Office, the trade department and the Institute of Chartered Accountants.

SIB said IMRO's failure effectively to monitor the two companies running the Maxwell pension funds showed "a general lack of market awareness and scepticism in dealing with information".

Watsons, actuaries to the MCC pension fund, yesterday announced that it was donating £50,000 to the Maxwell pensioners trust fund, in response to the appeal by Sir John Cuckney. The actuaries said they had no intimation of any irregularities in the schemes' assets until after Robert Maxwell's death, when they reported the matter to the Occupational Pensions Board. Imro later carried out the investigation.

Leading article, page 15
Last chance, page 23

O&Y cornered by Li Ka-shing move

FROM PHILIP ROBINSON IN NEW YORK

LI KA-SHING, the Hong Kong property billionaire once regarded as a white knight for Olympia & York Developments, builders of London's Canary Wharf, has taken steps that could force Olympia & York into the American bankruptcy courts.

Mr Li served formal notice on the Canadian developer that its \$57.5 million mortgage on a New York building is in default.

Mr Li took over that debt from another creditor eight months ago in a move seen to give the cash-starved Olympia & York some breathing space. The mortgage is on Olympia & York's 60 Broad Street, a property in which Mr Li also has a 49 per cent equity stake.

Olympia & York officials scheduled an emergency meeting with Mr Li in Hong Kong this week to coincide with a series of meetings in Tokyo. Olympia & York says these are to keep Japanese creditors abreast of the American debt restructuring plans.

The property group, two thirds of which is being run by the equivalent of bankruptcy court officials in London and Canada, says it is not under any immediate pressure from creditors.

The bankruptcy filing by

Olympia & York's parent company in Canada has put it in technical default on all its American mortgages, estimated at \$5.9 billion.

Mr Li's formal notice is one of a number lodged by creditors. Such moves allow the creditors the option of recovering debts through the courts and forcing Olympia & York's American arm into bankruptcy.

Bank sources say that while most of the main creditors continue to be co-operative, the Svenska Handelsbanken, of Sweden, and Bank Leumi, of Israel, have shown signs of being restive.

Meanwhile, the property group managed to stave off a \$33 million debt deadline that falls due today and could have been called by JMB Realty, the property group based in Chicago.

The group is allowing Olympia & York to restructure the loan.

Olympia & York has also managed to retain an option to remain involved with a San Francisco development on which it has spent \$25 million. Despite failing to pay \$2 million on the project last week, the group has been given eight months to buy its way back in.

Lamont pledge on ERM lifts pound

By COLIN NARBROUGH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

FRESH assurance from Norman Lamont, the Chancellor, that the government is sticking to its commitment to the European exchange-rate mechanism helped the pound to recover from a bad bout of weakness early yesterday.

Sterling was sharply down at the London opening, falling almost 1.5 pence to a low of DM2.8585 at 9am, its weakest since the eve of the general election. The fall reflected dealers' alarm about a report in a German newspaper that the Bundesbank was considering tightening the monetary reins at next week's session of its policy-setting council.

The dollar, which, like the pound, was in decline after the confusing signals from the Munich economic summit, also retreated in response to the report.

By the official London close at 4pm, the currency market had performed an about-turn, allowing the pound to climb back to DM2.8729, only marginally below its previous finish. Against the rebounding dollar, sterling slumped more than 1.5 cents to end at \$1.9070. Sterling's trade-weighted index was 0.2 lower at 92.6.

Mr Lamont said the ERM was good for recovery, good

Rank Organisation



Pinning down the payment: Sir Patrick Meaney, chairman, left, and Michael Gifford held the dividend yesterday

Shephard confronts Treasury over training programmes

By ROSS TIEMAN, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

GILLIAN Shephard, the employment secretary, is on course for a confrontation with the Treasury over the introduction of long-term contracts for training organisations.

Mrs Shephard is set to promise heads of Britain's Training and Enterprise Councils that she will end

uncertainty over funding which Tecs claim has hampered their effectiveness.

She also intends to introduce a payment-by-results scheme, under which the 82 Tecs in England and Wales will be paid according to their success in producing well-qualified youngsters able to find jobs.

Both ideas are anathema to the Treasury, which prefers finite commitments to funding over a single year. But even though Whitehall insiders insist this year's public spending battles between ministers are tougher than ever, Mrs Shephard, a former Treasury minister, appears confident she can persuade her former civil servants of the need for a new strategy.

Yesterday, the Treasury still appeared to be steadfastly resisting.

The promise to pay by results was apparently also opposed by a Treasury wary of its liabilities under such an open-ended regime. A shift to long-term funding should remove much of the uncertainty,

which appeared to threaten the effectiveness of the Tecs this spring.

Ten Tecs in the London region have only just settled their funding for the year that started in April. They sought extra cash because of a sharp increase in demand for training resulting from the recession.

Disputes over funding have also soured relations with many of the businessmen who participate part-time in management of Tecs.

Many company directors have found their ability to devote time to Tecs reduced by difficulties at their own companies that have been caused by the recession.

In a speech in Birmingham to 500 Tec chairman and chief executives, Mrs Shephard said she will maintain the government's commitment to Tecs.

However, she made plain that she is unhappy with the standards of some Tecs in delivering the government's Youth Training scheme under contract.

Rank pegs payout at half time

By MICHAEL TATE, CITY EDITOR

RANK Organisation is holding its interim dividend at 10.25p after restricting a fall in pre-tax profits to £2 million, for a £94 million total in the 28 weeks to May 16.

The contribution from the company's stake in Rank Xerox, the office machine group, fell from £80.1 million to £71.7 million, with the Japanese Fuji Xerox joint venture particularly hard hit.

The film and television operations, including the Hard Rock Cafes, turned in higher profits. But in the recreation division, better returns from the bingo clubs were outweighed by lower casino profits and a £2 million loss on amusement machines, as the recession emptied Britain's public houses. Trading conditions generally were "poor and patchy", said Mike Gifford, chief executive of Rank.

Admissions at the Odeon cinema chain were 10 per cent lower during the half year.

Tempos, page 20

DON'T GET CAUGHT WITH YOUR TROUSERS DOWN!

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FORMAL WEAR

There is only one way to make sure that you'll look the business on your big day, and that's to hire from Youngs Formal Wear, a company you know you can trust - the largest men's wear hire company in the UK. Whether you're tying the knot, having a ball, or winning and dining - Youngs will make sure you are well and truly covered.

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Sugar sweetens with £200 offer

By DEREK HARRIS

ALAN Sugar, whose early Amstrad machines brought home computing to the masses, is price-cutting his way into a new market. Yesterday, he announced a user-friendly slimline portable computer-cum-personal organiser for the cut-throat price of £199.99.

The NC100 Notepad is claimed to bridge the gap between personal organisers in the same price range and sophisticated portable computers costing £1,000 or more - although prices are falling.

Mr Sugar, Amstrad's chairman, believes that by employing simple hardware but by using sophisticated software, the computer notepad will yield "much better" profit margins.

Recession has forced makers of business machines to discount fiercely on prices. Mr Sugar said: "It's a bloody battlefield out there although this does not mean we are



Sugar: "user-friendly"

pulling out of business machines."

Other "user-friendly" products to become available soon include an office computer, video cassette recorder "which you can learn to programme within a minute" and a telephone that includes a compact fax machine.

Average users of the NC100 Notepad are expected to be able to employ its modest capacity to store addresses,

telephone numbers and diary dates as well as about 12,000 words of notes, memos or any other word processing they might need as it can be connected to most printers.

Mr Sugar, who says his not being a computer buff helps when designing a machine for non-computer-literate customers, says he uses the notepad for memos and letters when he is away from the office, especially at airports.

Amstrad says there is additional hardware on the market that would allow data in the notepad to be transmitted to other computers by telephone line.

The A4 size of the notepad computer allows it to have a full-size keyboard. In that way, it scores over smaller personal organisers, Mr Sugar said. He expects young executives to use the notepad and the BBC Basic language has been incorporated because the educational market is also seen as important. The Amstrad sales target is

the 80 per cent of the possible user population that it believes has never had the nerve to use a computer. This is why Mr Sugar sees the notepad doing what his original word processor did in opening up a new market.

The notepad will be available in time for Christmas and Amstrad is to spend £3 million on an autumn advertising promotion.

The slogan will say: "If you can't use this machine in just five minutes you'll get your money back."

Mr Sugar said: "A first year sale of 200,000 to 300,000 would have an impact on the Amstrad bottom line. There isn't a big risk exposure here because the initial launch costs can be recovered very quickly."

Receivership rate falls after banks step up help

By Ross Tieman, Industrial Correspondent

IMPROVED efforts by banks to help companies in trouble may have contributed to a fall in the number of receivership appointments during the second quarter.

Although the number of appointments reduced fell by almost a third, to 948, Tim Hayward, head of corporate recovery at KPMG Peat Marwick, the accountant that compiled the figures, said he was convinced the trend was still upwards. "If the figures for the first six months of the year are compared to the previous six months the overall level of receiverships continues to grow," he said.

Mr Hayward said there were no signs that the difficulties companies faced had arisen because of firms taking on too much business after a lean spell, as would be expected at the end of a recession.

"The recent reduction in the level of receiverships may well be the result of the banks redoubling their efforts to find

solutions for clients with difficulties," he said. Use of "turn-around" services to help firms in trouble had risen.

Mr Hayward said the outlook for the economy remained grim, and many rescue efforts might prove futile. "It is too early to say whether the large number of companies that are on banks' watch list will be capable of being turned around or whether there will, at the end of the day, be no option but to file for insolvency."

Mr Hayward's caution was expressed after Peat's survey showed its first significant fall in the level of receiverships for two years. Receivership appointments during the second quarter, at 948, was 30.4 per cent down on the 1,362 recorded during the first three months of the year.

However, the total for the first six months, at 2,310, was 17 per cent higher than during the second half of 1991.

Mr Hayward said he saw no reason to expect the problems facing companies to lessen.

"The fundamental problem facing a large number of companies is that of an inadequate level of sales, and until consumer and industrial confidence returns, this won't improve. This means that it is unlikely companies will be able to do much about their weakened financial position since most have already taken significant action in controlling their cost base."

Over half of the receivership appointments in the second quarter were in the South East, where 488 companies failed. The Midlands was next hardest hit, with 121 failures, followed by the North West (107) and the North East (93).

By sector, manufacturing firms accounted for 28.5 per cent of failures, followed by construction (18 per cent), finance and business services (14.1 per cent) and wholesale distribution (8.5 per cent).

Comment, page 23

Banner reduces losses

Banner Homes, a Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire property group, unveiled reduced pre-tax losses of £688,000 for the year to March 31, compared with a £732,000 loss last time. The group's industrial and office properties are to be sold and the proceeds invested in housebuilding.

The company has debts of £11.8 million, mostly linked to its commercial property portfolio. That contributed rents of about £880,000 last year, compared with Banner's interest bill of £1.2 million. There is again no dividend.

Brewer falls

Pre-tax profits of Chestre-based Burtonwood Brewery fell by 18 per cent to £4.62 million in the year to March 31. The company said the previous year's figure had been inflated by property disposals; underlying profits this time were up by 21 per cent. A 3.75p final dividend makes a total of 4.45p (4.24p).

Record profit

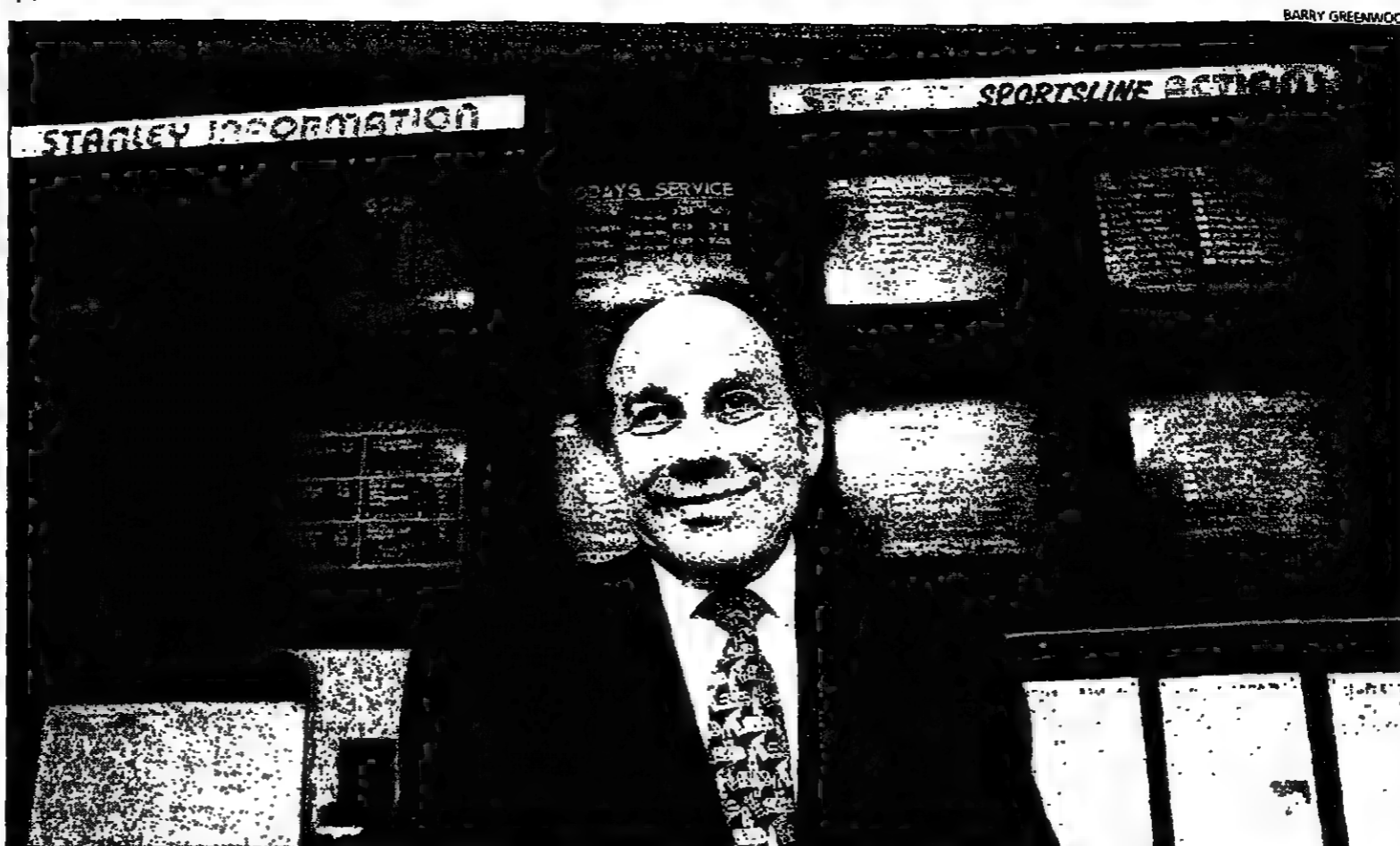
Stewart & Wight, a property investment group, lifted pre-tax profits to £351,834 (£310,303) in the year to March 31. There is a proposed single dividend of 120p (105p). Michael Conn, chairman, said rental income and net profits were at record levels. The value of the property portfolio has been reduced by £1.2 million to £4.3 million.

Jurys sags

Jurys Hotels, a Dublin-based hotel chain, saw pre-tax profits decline to Ir£2.5 million (£2.3 million) from Ir£3.25 million in the year to April 30. Earnings per share were Ir8.3p (Ir11.1p). A maintained final dividend of Ir3p leaves the total unchanged at Ir5p.

Simon purchase

Simon Engineering, an engineering, environmental and industrial services group, has bought Teledyne Exploration's marine seismic data acquisition arm for \$10 million.



Focus on recovery: Leonard Steinberg, Stanley Leisure chairman, is "reasonably confident" of a satisfactory outcome for the year

Harland Simon shares collapse

By Jon Ashworth

SHARES in Harland Simon, the control systems group, plunged 28p to 40p on a pre-tax loss of £6.3 million in the year to March (£9.9 million profit).

In February, the share price collapsed from 585p to 253p after the company gave warning that exposure to companies controlled by Robert Maxwell would result in a "significant fall" in pre-tax profits for the year.

Contracts expected to be placed by Maxwell Communication Corporation and Mirror Group Newspapers had fallen through after the publisher's death and this was expected to cut profits by £2 million. Provisions of £750,000 had been made to cover disputed debts due from the Maxwell companies. Roy Ashman, chairman, resigned after the announcement.

The full extent of the losses was disclosed yesterday. Operating profit fell to £3.4 million (£10.3 million). Most losses are due to an exceptional £5.1

million provision against monies outstanding from Perfect Information Limited (PIL), an information provider. The company is taking a majority stake in PIL to sell on later.

Exceptional items include £500,000 in early termination of contract costs relating to Mr Ashman and other staff. Provisions for bad and doubtful debts reach £1.6 million. Other provisions include reorganisation and legal costs over a patent action of £800,000 and £700,000 in other non-recurring exceptional items. There has been a £2 million write-off in research costs.

Harland Simon issued a statement denying claims in a national newspaper that the company is having building work done by Industrial Radiographic Services, a company in which John Redshaw, managing director, was alleged to hold a 50 per cent stake. Harland Simon said Mr Redshaw does not own, and never has, IRS shares.

Eurocamp in red at halfway

FEW go camping in the winter, so there is little surprise at interim results from Eurocamp, the camping holiday operator, which reported a pre-tax loss of £4.9 million (£5.2 million loss) in the six months to April 30. To put the losses in context, seasonal gains helped the company to a profit of £8.16 million (£5.66 million) last year (Jon Ashworth writes).

Eurocamp expects to meet its booking targets, helped by its appointment as a selected operator for the EuroDisney resort. Overall booking volume of more than 15 per cent is anticipated.

Richard Atkinson, managing director, said the company was more resilient to swings in booking than the large tour operators.

Eurocamp was bought by its management from Next, the stores group, in 1988, and came to the stock market via an offer for sale and placing in July 1991. There is an interim dividend of 3.45p.

Stanley Leisure rises despite harsh trading

By Michael Tate

STANLEY Leisure, the north country betting shops and casinos group, made pre-tax profits of £7.52 million (£7.13 million) despite the recession. Earnings rose 1p to 15.4p a share.

Shareholders will receive a final dividend of 3.3p a share, lifting the total from 4.85p to 5.2p a share. Stanley is also making a 1-for-4 bonus share issue.

Leonard Steinberg, the chairman, said the effects of recession are apparent, and are making business difficult in both main divisions. "But the 1991-92 results have shown that the group can earn acceptable profits in difficult trading conditions," he added.

He believes the group is in a good position to take advantage of any economic recovery, and is "reasonably confident" of a satisfactory outcome for the new financial year. Turnover from the 325 betting shops increased 10 per cent to £174.3 million, and profits rose 2 per cent to

£6.2 million. The casinos did better than in the previous year from a similar level of "drop", thanks to an improvement in margins, and tight control of overheads. Attendance levels remained constant over the year, Mr Steinberg said. Average spend in the group's casinos is £90, compared with £100 before the recession.

The Bournemouth casino was refurbished, and the Edinburgh business was transferred to new premises in a listed building towards the end of the financial year. The freehold of the Newcastle casino was also bought during the year, raising capital expenditure to £800,000.

Stanley's printing division was sold in October last year, contributing to £2.3 million of extraordinary charges. The group is also expected to dispose of its snooker clubs, which are still only breaking even, should a reasonable offer materialise.

The group's current gearing level is 35 per cent.

Abbey tries again to trace share owners

By Lindsay Cook, Money Editor

ABBNEY National is making a final attempt to find 390,000 of its shareholders who have not claimed £105 million worth of shares. Sir Christopher Tugendhat, the chairman, will write on Monday to the people who have not claimed the 100 free shares they were allocated at the time of the flotation in 1989.

This is the seventh time the building society turned bank has tried to persuade some of its customers to claim their bonus from the flotation. Last time, 5,000 lots of shares were claimed.

Claim forms will also be available in Abbey National's 700 branches and a free telephone line has been established on 0500 500 202 to help claimants. John Fry, group services director, said the cost of giving away the shares could be as much as £500,000.

When the claims have been dealt with, the bank will sell the remaining shares. Most of the proceeds will be retained by the Abbey. Savers and borrowers will still have a further six years to claim the proceeds of the share sale and can claim dividends for 12 years from the date they were announced. The shares are now worth £2.73 and 25.7 pence of dividends has been paid for each share during the past three years.

The group will also use up to 10 per cent of the sale proceeds to endow the Abbey National Charitable Trust. The trust, which is responsible for administering the company's charitable donations, could double its giving as a result of the payment. It currently gives £1 million in money and services.

The bank has decided not to cancel the shares after taking legal advice. This would involve a special meeting of shareholders and a court case and the cancellation would probably not be sanctioned.

Mr Fry said that a large number of the people owed shares had probably changed address since 1989. Some might object to the conversion and to share ownership and have refused to claim on principle. Others could know they were not eligible for the shares but not told the Abbey.

Albert Fisher shares tumble after board's profit warning

By Martin Waller

SHARES in Albert Fisher, the distributor of fresh fruit and vegetables that was one of the boom stocks in the 1980s, lost almost half their value at one stage yesterday, wiping £190 million from the company's value, after a profit warning. The shares ended at 41p, down 25p, after some swift damage limitation by the company and its advisers prompted the shares to rise 6p from their lowest level. But the City remained nervous.

One broker, who did not wish to be identified, said: "It reads like they're in the Stuka, the air brakes have failed and they're still got the bomb on board."

Tony Millar, the chairman and the man behind Fisher's explosive growth, said an excess of fresh produce in Europe and North America, caused by exceptionally high crop yields combined with expansion of acreages and demand, had suggested that second-half profits to end-August would be "significantly lower" than those expected in April, when the company reported a 17 per cent reduction in its halfway pre-tax profits.

Sales volumes were in line with expectations, but over-supply had caused "severe produce sales deflation", which was having a material impact on profits. Imports of apples, grapes and pears from Chile to Europe were particularly affected. Fisher had also been hit by the recession.

Most analysts immediately cut forecasts for the current year by about £14 million to £63 million. There was particular concern about the dividend, given a failure by the company to confirm it would be maintained even though profits at the reduced level now expected would cover the payment almost twice.

Mr Millar said the board had considered it inappropriate to make a dividend forecast at this stage, although "it remains conscious of the importance of dividends to shareholders".

Analysts were angry that only two weeks ago the company was giving no hint of the severity of its problems. Mr Millar said the fall in produce prices had only been noted in the May budget figures, received in June. Only recently had the June budgets suggested this was not temporary.

Fisher makes its profits through taking a percentage of the value of the growers' produce it distributes, so when this value falls, so does the company's take. "It's not a thing that's been experienced in the industry before," said Mr Millar. Our belief is that it is exceptional. We would like to wait to confirm this."



Millar: dividend fears

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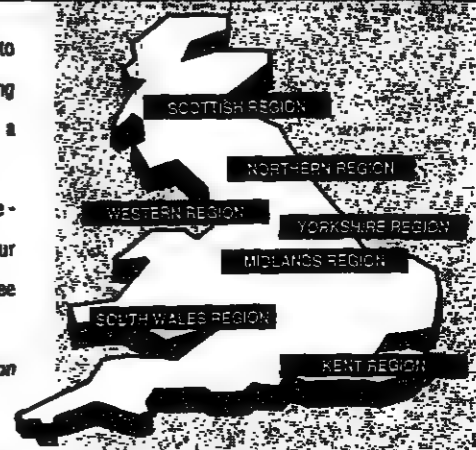
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Mickey Mouse blockaded by truckers

By Martin Waller

FRANCE'S lorry drivers might have succeeded where the masses of the country's intelligentsia failed and humbled the giant American Disney Corporation.

Chaos on the roads seems to have been the last straw for

Euro Disneyland, the amusement park east of Paris that opened to a less than ecstatic reception in the spring.

In an interview with Les Echos, the French financial daily, Robert Fitzpatrick, Euro Disney chairman, said the company needed three years

to see if it had met its objectives. He also said incentives were planned to promote use of the theme park on winter weekdays.

He declined to make an earnings forecast for this year and would not say whether the company expected to reach its target of 11 million visits in the first 12 months of operation.

Mr Fitzpatrick's remarks were taken as a further indication that the leisure park, denounced as a "cultural Chernobyl" by French intellectuals who scorn the importation of Mickey Mouse characters, was failing to reach target attendance figures.

Although Euro Disney is chary of quoting figures, attendance is thought to have been badly hurt by the lorry drivers' actions in bringing the French road system to a standstill at a

time of the year that is potentially highly profitable.

The best clues to Euro Disney's performance have been figures from the group itself showing that more than 1.5 million people came in the first seven weeks of operation. This suggests a daily intake of 30,000 - the average number needed throughout the year to reach the 11 million forecast.

However, the park was always expected to be more popular in the summer months than in the winter and summer attendances would have to be much higher than the average for the target to be met.

Best assessments, even before the French trucking industry went on the rampage, were that perhaps 9 million would go through the turnstiles in the first year.

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STOCK MARKET

Stronger dollar lifts blue chips

PRICES enjoyed a technical rally, encouraged by a steadier performance on the foreign exchange market and a spot of bear closing before the end of the account today. The FT-SE 100 index closed near its best level of the day, finishing 25.3 points higher at 2,497.9 as the Dow Jones industrial average opened sharply higher on Wall Street, helped by the dollar's revival. But business remained thin, with only 486 million shares traded and brokers were certainly under no illusions about the market's performance.

Conditions remain volatile, with the cash market continuing to take its lead from the

SmithKline Beecham A climbed 30p to 912p, with the units ending 100p dearer at £41.35. Institutional buyers led the way before Monday's proposed share split. Hoare Govett, the broker, reckons the shares are good value for money.

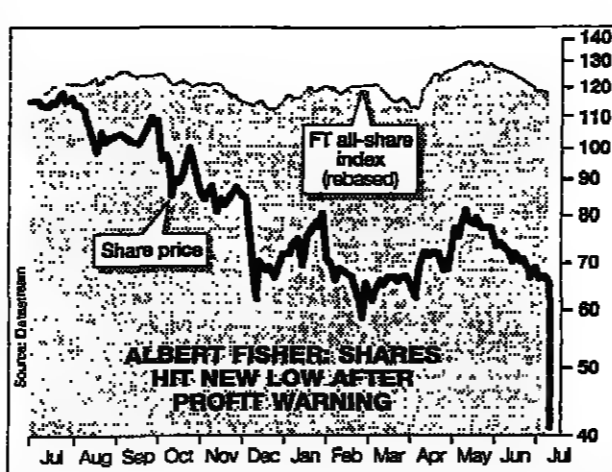
financial futures which achieved another healthy rise in the September series during early trading. Leading shares were chased higher, partly

because of the dollar's strength and the hopes that the American economy may be on the mend. Gains were recorded in BAT Industries, 19p to 760p. Rothmans International B. 20p to £10.90. BOC Group, 12p to 641p. ICI, 12p to £11.49, and Grand Metropolitan, 11p to 460p.

British Aerospace failed to maintain an early mark-up that saw the price touch 265p on the news that Airbus Industrie had won a contract to supply United Airlines of America with 50 A320 Airbuses, with an option on 50 more.

BAE, which has a one-third stake in the Airbus consortium, closed 3p higher at 245p. The deal was also good news for Rolls-Royce, 1p cheaper at 146p, which supplies the engines and Lucas Industries, 9p stronger at 124p. Lucas supplies equipment worth \$500,000 for each aircraft.

Albert Fisher, the fruit and vegetable distributor, was the biggest casualty of the day, with the price almost halving after it issued a profits warning. The company said that profits in the second half would be significantly lower than had been expected. Tony



Miller, the chairman, said the group was not in a position to make a dividend forecast, but was aware of the importance of dividends to shareholders. The shares ended 25p down at 41p. The stock waves from Albert Fisher upset the other food distributors. Hillsdown Holdings touched 142p. The price later rallied to close only 3p lighter at 145p.

Unigate, the dairy products and transport group, was another weak market, losing 6p at 310p, as a line of 2.8 million shares went through the market.

Harland Simon, the elec-

tronics group, also upset its shareholders, with the price tumbling 28p to a low of 40p, after giving a profits warning. The group has announced a pre-tax loss of £6.3 million, compared with a profit of almost £10 million last time. The figure was struck after exceptional items of £8.5 million. The shares were trading at 585p in February.

Property shares suffered a mark-down, depressed by the absence of news about interest rates.

Falls were seen in Bilton, 15p to 383p, British Land, 6p to 179p, Brixton Estate, 4p to

141p. Cardiff Property, 15p to 135p, Hammerson A, 14p to 306p, Land Securities, 4p to 395p, MEPC, 16p to 266p, Merivale Moore, 12p to 25p, and Power Corporation, 5p to 50p.

Rank Organisation touched 645p after better than expected half-year figures. But it failed to hold on to the lead after a cautious meeting with analysts and finished 7p lower at 624p. Pre-tax profits were just £2 million lighter at £94 million, but analysts have now downgraded profits for the full year to £250 million compared with earlier estimates of about £275 million.

The group said the recession

Guinness rose 29p to 557p. Worries about the outlook for LVMH-Moët Hennessy Louis Vuitton, its French trading associate, have begun to recede with sales during the first half improving 5 per cent despite claims that the group remains locked in recession.

was continuing to hurt and that any improvement now would have to come from cost-cutting.

Scottish Hydro-Electric, the power generator, fell 5p to 193p despite seeing pre-tax profits more than double last year to £122.7 million. Sir Michael Joughin, the chairman, said the result was achieved by higher sales south of the border, a lower tax charge and reduced fuel costs.

The oil sector attracted a few nervous sellers, who were worried by a softening in the crude oil price on world markets as well as several analysts reducing their profit forecasts. BP eased 2p to 209p, Enterprise 8p to 385p and Shell 3p to 492p. Only Lasso made headway, firming 3p to 165p.

MICHAEL CLARK

Dow makes early advance

New York — Shares rose in early trading with investors confident in blue chips ability to stand their ground despite worries about forthcoming corporate results. The Dow Jones industrial average advanced 19.72 points to 3,313. Tokyo — Prices continued their technical recovery into a second day and closed firmer in choppy trading. The Nikkei index rose 248.40 points, or 1.5 per cent, to 16,848.66. Turnover rose to about 250 million shares, compared with 201 million on Wednesday.

Sydney — Australian shares closed weak after the worst unemployment figures since the Depression plunged the stock market into gloom. The all-ordinaries index closed down 9.3 points at 1,642.1, but above its lows for the day. The figures showed that unemployment rose to a seasonally adjusted 11.1 per cent in June from 10.6 per cent in May and 9.4 per cent a year ago.

Hong Kong — Shares finished at the day's lows as profit-taking continued to put pressure on prices in subdued trading and most investors stayed on the sidelines. The blue-chip Hang Seng index fell 56.39 points, or 0.94 per cent, to 5,925.52.

Frankfurt — Technical factors gave prices a gentle push higher, but dealers said that, after the losses of the past couple of days, the market still looked vulnerable. The Dax index ended 6.46 points higher at 1,757.64.

Singapore — Prices finished higher, led by bargain-hunting with attention mainly on Malaysian shares traded in the over-the-counter market. The Straits Times industrial index rose 7.5 points to 1,481.02. (Reuters)

BRITISH FUNDS

A STRONG performance by the dollar introduced an element of stability to an otherwise volatile foreign exchange market and also enabled government securities to regain their composure. The long gilt future led the way higher encouraged by the appearance of American buyers in a thin market. Dealers say that while hopes of an imminent cut in interest rates may linger in the equity market, the story has never held much credence in the bond market.

The improved sentiment enabled the long bond to close at its best of the day 12 ticks higher at 99 1/2. Once again most of the support was focused on the long end of the market where prices rose around 12 ticks with Treasury 9 per cent 2011 closing at £102 1/2. Gains at the shorter end were more restricted. Treasury 10 per cent 1994 finished £1 1/2 better at £101 1/2.

SHORTS (under 5 years)

1992	Low	High	Stock	Price	1991	Low	High	Stock	Price
101 1/2	100 1/2	101 1/2	Each 12% 1992	100 1/2	101 1/2	100 1/2	101 1/2	Each 12% 1991	100 1/2
101 1/2	100 1/2	101 1/2	Each 12% 1993	100 1/2	101 1/2	100 1/2	101 1/2	Each 12% 1992	100 1/2
101 1/2	100 1/2	101 1/2	Each 12% 1994	100 1/2	101 1/2	100 1/2	101 1/2	Each 12% 1993	100 1/2
101 1/2	100 1/2	101 1/2	Each 12% 1995	100 1/2	101 1/2	100 1/2	101 1/2	Each 12% 1994	100 1/2
101 1/2	100 1/2	101 1/2	Each 12% 1996	100 1/2	101 1/2	100 1/2	101 1/2	Each 12% 1995	100 1/2
101 1/2	100 1/2	101 1/2	Each 12% 1997	100 1/2	101 1/2	100 1/2	101 1/2	Each 12% 1996	100 1/2
101 1/2	100 1/2	101 1/2	Each 12% 1998	100 1/2	101 1/2	100 1/2	101 1/2	Each 12% 1997	100 1/2
101 1/2	100 1/2	101 1/2	Each 12% 1999	100 1/2	101 1/2	100 1/2	101 1/2	Each 12% 1998	100 1/2
101 1/2	100 1/2	101 1/2	Each 12% 2000	100 1/2	101 1/2	100 1/2	101 1/2	Each 12% 1999	100 1/2
101 1/2	100 1/2	101 1/2	Each 12% 2001	100 1/2	101 1/2	100 1/2	101 1/2	Each 12% 2000	100 1/2

MEDIUMS (5 to 15 years)

1992	Low	High	Stock	Price	1991	Low	High	Stock	Price
101 1/2	100 1/2	101 1/2	Each 12% 1995	100 1/2	101 1/2	100 1/2	101 1/2	Each 12% 1994	100 1/2
101 1/2	100 1/2	101 1/2	Each 12% 1996	100 1/2	101 1/2	100 1/2	101 1/2	Each 12% 1995	100 1/2
101 1/2	100 1/2	101 1/2	Each 12% 1997	100 1/2	101 1/2	100 1/2	101 1/2	Each 12% 1996	100 1/2
101 1/2	100 1/2	101 1/2	Each 12% 1998	100 1/2	101 1/2	100 1/2	101 1/2	Each 12% 1997	100 1/2
101 1/2	100 1/2	101 1/2	Each 12% 1999	100 1/2	101 1/2	100 1/2	101 1/2	Each 12% 1998	100 1/2
101 1/2	100 1/2	101 1/2	Each 12% 2000	100 1/2	101 1/2	100 1/2	101 1/2	Each 12% 1999	100 1/2
101 1/2	100 1/2	101 1/2	Each 12% 2001	100 1/2	101 1/2	100 1/2	101 1/2	Each 12% 2000	100 1/2
101 1/2	100 1/2	101 1/2	Each 12% 2002	100 1/2	101 1/2	100 1/2	101 1/2	Each 12% 2001	100 1/2
101 1/2	100 1/2	101 1/2	Each 12% 2003	100 1/2	101 1/2	100 1/2	101 1/2	Each 12% 2002	100 1/2
101 1/2	100 1/2	101 1/2	Each 12% 2004	100 1/2	101 1/2	100 1/2	101 1/2	Each 12% 2003	100 1/2

LONGS (over 15 years)

1992	Low	High	Stock	Price	1991	Low	High	Stock	Price
101 1/2	100 1/2	101 1/2	Each 12% 2005	100 1/2	101 1/2	100 1/2	101 1/2	Each 12% 2004	100 1/2
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101 1/2	100 1/2	101 1/2	Each 12% 2007	100 1/2	101 1/2	100 1/2	101 1/2	Each 12% 2006	100 1/2
101 1/2	100 1/2	101 1/2	Each 12% 2008	100 1/2	101 1/2	100 1/2	101 1/2	Each 12% 2007	100 1/2
101 1/2	100 1/2	101 1/2	Each 12% 2009	100 1/2	101 1/2	100 1/2	101 1/2	Each 12% 2008	100 1/2
101 1/2	100 1/2	101 1/2	Each 12% 2010	100 1/2	101 1/2	100 1/2	101 1/2	Each 12% 2009	100 1/2
101 1/2	100 1/2	101 1/2	Each 12% 2011	100 1/2	101 1/2	100 1/2	101 1/2	Each 12% 2010	100 1/2
101 1/2	100 1/2	101 1/2	Each 12% 2012	100 1/2	101 1/2	100 1/2	101 1/2	Each 12% 2011	100 1/2
101 1/2	100 1/2	101 1/2	Each 12% 2013	100 1/2	101 1/2	100 1/2	101 1/2	Each 12% 2012	100 1/2
101 1/2	100 1/2	101 1/2	Each 12% 2014	100 1/2	101 1/2	100 1/2	101 1/2	Each 12% 2013	100 1/2

UNDATED

1992	Low	High	Stock	Price	1991	Low	High	Stock	Price
101 1/2	100 1/2	101 1/2	Each 12% 2015	100 1/2	101 1/2	100 1/2	101 1/2	Each 12% 2014	100 1/2
101 1/2	100 1/2	101 1/2	Each 12% 2016	100 1/2	101 1/2	100 1/2	101 1/2	Each 12% 2015	100 1/2
101 1/2	100 1/2	101 1/2	Each 12% 2017	100 1/2	101 1/2	100 1/2	101 1/2	Each 12% 2016	100 1/2
101 1/2	100 1/2	101 1/2	Each 12% 2018	100 1/2	101 1/2	100 1/2	101 1/2	Each 12% 2017	100 1/2
101 1/2	100 1/2	101 1/2	Each 12% 2019	100 1/2	101 1/2	100 1/2	101 1/2	Each 12% 2018	100 1/2
101 1/2	100 1/2	101 1/2	Each 12% 2020	100 1/2	101 1/2	100 1/2	101 1/2	Each 12% 2019	100 1/2
101 1/2	100 1/2	101 1/2	Each 12% 2021	100 1/2	101 1/2	100 1/2	101 1/2	Each 12% 2020	100 1/2
101 1/2	100 1/2	101 1/2	Each 12% 2022	100 1/2	101 1/2	100 1/2	101 1/2	Each 12% 2021	100 1/2
101 1/2	100 1/2	101 1/2	Each 12% 2023	100 1/2	101 1/2	100 1/2	101 1/2	Each 12% 2022	100 1/2
101 1/2	100 1/2	101 1/2	Each 12% 2024	100 1/2	101 1/2	100 1/2	101 1/2	Each 12% 2023	100 1/2

INDEX-LINKED

1992	Low	High	Stock	Price	1991	Low	High	Stock	Price
101 1/2	100 1/2	101 1/2	Each 12% 2025	100 1/2	101 1/2	100 1/2	101 1/2	Each 12% 2024	100 1/2
101 1/2	100 1/2	101 1/2	Each 12% 2026	100 1/2	101 1/2	100 1/2	101 1/2	Each 12% 2025	100 1/2
101 1/2	100 1/2	101 1/2	Each 12% 2027	100 1/2	101 1/2	100 1/2	101 1/2	Each 12% 2026	100 1/2
101 1/2	100 1/2	101 1/2	Each 12% 2028	100 1/2	101 1/2	100 1/2	101 1/2	Each 12% 2027	100 1/2
101 1/2	100 1/2	101 1/2	Each 12% 2029	100 1/2	101 1/2	100 1/2	101 1/2	Each 12% 2028	100 1/2
101 1/2	100 1/2	101 1/2	Each 12% 2030	100 1/2	101 1/2	100 1/2	101 1/2	Each 12% 2029	100 1/2
101 1/2	100 1/2	101 1/2	Each 12% 2031	100 1/2	101 1/2	100 1/2	101 1/2	Each 12% 2030	100 1/2
101 1/2	100 1/2	101 1/2	Each 12% 2032	100 1/2	101 1/2	100 1/2	101 1/2	Each 12% 2031	100 1/2
101 1/2	100 1/2	101 1/2	Each 12% 2033	100 1/2	101 1/2	100 1/2	101 1/2	Each 12% 2032	100 1/2
101 1/2	100 1/2	101 1/2	Each 12% 2034	100 1/2	101 1/2	100 1/2	101 1/2	Each 12% 2033	100 1/2

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Bad news at last for accountants

Little good news comes from the insolvency business except of its demise. So far, the recession has been a boon to the accountancy profession, generating insolvency fees of £335 million in the past 12 months, compared with £101 million in 1988 for the 19 largest professional firms. Corporate undertakers clearly have little to complain of in personal terms. But they are the classic cyclical indicator of the health of the business world and it was therefore modestly cheering to discover that business has not been so good lately. Receivership appointments declined 30 per cent in the second quarter. The tough question, as with so many statistical indicators these days, is to determine whether this is merely a dip in a series that continues to trend upwards or whether it is the start of a turning point in the trend itself.

After a scathing report on the track record of forecasters, including the Treasury, from the National Institute for Social and Economic Research, the hapless businessman looking for guidance may be inclined to discount everything except the cash in his own till. But for the record, KPMG Peat Marwick, which compiled the data, believes that the trend of insolvency is still firmly upwards. There is no easy explanation for the sharp second-quarter decline, except the possibility that banks might be burning more midnight oil in efforts to rescue clients from bankruptcy.

It is also possible that election blight, which slowed corporate decision taking to a trickle in the couple of months prior to polling day, held back even the rate of company failures. Typically, the first green shoots of recovery herald an increase in bankruptcy as stricken firms go once too often to their bankers, seeking further working capital to tide them over a pick-up in trade. In all probability, the final upturn in the fortunes of corporate undertakers is some months away yet.

Danger for bears

If house prices are finally stabilising, as yesterday's news from the Halifax Building Society suggested, many extreme bears may be in trouble. In the stock market, the foreign exchanges and City forecasting firms. The danger for the bears is not that the housing market will pull the economy out of recession but that stability in housing suggests the recession may already be at an end.

The idea that any economic recovery would have to wait for an increase in house prices has never made much sense. House prices, even more than unemployment, are a lagging indicator. They reflect past events in the economy, rather than pointing to the future. In previous cycles, house prices have always gone on falling, at least in real terms, until after the end of recession. They have never taken off until recovery was well under way. This time, too, there is no prospect of housing leading an economic recovery. In fact, for the annual rate of housing inflation merely to turn positive would require eight more months of the kind of 0.3 per cent increase in seasonally adjusted house prices announced yesterday. Fortunately, the rest of the economy should not have to wait that long to show some growth.

What yesterday's housing figures, backed up by the upbeat consumer survey published by Gallup and Business Strategies, suggested was that sentiment in the high streets may not be as grim as many of the pundits suppose. Consumers are cautious and reluctant to take on new debt but they are not tightening their belts any further. Provided employers keep their nerve and do not hit the economy with another wave of redundancies and destocking, a modest recovery should become perceptible within the next few months.

Angela Mackay says
Britain may have to
move towards creation
of its own SEC if
investors are to regain
confidence in the system

In Wall Street, the film that traced the spectacular rise and fall of a young stockbroker at the close of the 1980s, the American attitude to regulation was clearly demonstrated. Put simply, the Securities and Exchange Commission, the American government agency, inspired feelings of awe and fear in the film's protagonists.

Compare this reaction with that conjured up by Britain's smorgasbord of self-regulatory organisations, which even with Hollywood's help, could summon little more than lip service.

Fear alone will not stop committed fraudsters, but the Securities and Exchange Commission is unconnected with those bodies it regulates and therefore is able to be less sensitive to the knock-on effects of its decisions, unlike self-regulatory organisations, which by virtue of their makeup must be more cautious.

Britain's self-regulatory organisations come under the aegis of the Securities and Investments Board, which yesterday published a six-page statement on the role of one of its reporting bodies, the Investment Management Regulatory Organisation, in the Maxwell affair.

The Securities and Investments Board concluded that Imro had been extremely lax in monitoring the managers of Maxwell pension funds but instead of withdrawing its recognition, SIB will help Imro strengthen its supervisory role. To its credit, Imro has already already fallen on its sword with George Nissen, the chairman, resigning last week while two more senior staff left quietly the previous week.

Robert Maxwell's elaborate smokescreens and stonewalling prevented regulators and, if we are to be generous, employees from uncovering the depth of his perfidy.

There will always be some who believe no amount of legislation or rule-tightening can do away with fraud but in the face of such dismal failure in Maxwell and other cases, there is surely a case for speeding up the apportionment of blame and moving on to the more important task of closing the windows and ironing out the wrinkles that fostered the problems.

The Maxwell affair is the most recent reversion in a string of disasters suffered by the British investor over the past few years. Barlow Clowes, British & Commonwealth, Dunsdale Securities, Levitt Group — all are cases where the regulators failed to protect the interests of small investors.

Similarly, the problems at Lloyd's insurance market highlight the shortcomings of self-regulation, albeit for a different type of investor.

In yesterday's Times, Ian Hay Davidson, the former deputy chair-



Master of the smokescreen: Robert Maxwell before his ill-fated trip to Tenerife last November

man and chief executive of Lloyd's said: "I believe the time has come to end the self-regulatory arrangements at Lloyd's and to put the market, as far as investors are concerned, on the same footing as other City markets."

Two reports were delivered to Lloyd's last week in the wake of the extraordinary losses suffered by names. The first by Sir David Walker, the former chairman of SIB, concluded that while there was no evidence of fraud, standards of professional care and diligence fell "materially below best practice".

The second report by Sir Jeremy Morse dovetailed neatly with Sir David's. Sir Jeremy examined the governance of the market and recommended the separation of regulatory functions from the market's business functions to try to give investors a better deal.

On an international level, there is a push to tighten financial regulation after the collapse of the Bank of Credit and Commerce International. The Bank of England has called for legislation that gives a "new explicit

power to refuse or revoke authorisation on the sole ground that an applicant or authorised bank cannot be effectively supervised".

The banks' proposal follows the publication this week of a proposal by the Basle committee on banking supervision stating that all banks must have a capable lead regulator and that other regulators may take action against overseas branches of banks that they believe are not being supervised properly.

At worst these examples show the failure of a *laissez-faire* regulatory structure while at best they are a valid reason for investors to harbour scepticism about the effectiveness of philosophies that could not last beyond the financial bonanza of the 1980s.

It is troubling that it has taken so long for the government to seriously address the problems revealed by this catalogue of disasters. More than two years ago, many voices, including that of David Pine, the lawyer who represented Barlow Clowes investors, called for more muscle to be injected into SIB, SROs and the Financial

Services Act 1986 which created them. Since then the size of the corporate collapses has grown but not much more than reshuffling has occurred.

The government has already decided the original idea of a family of five SROs harboured by a parent SIB must go. Last year the Securities Association merged with the Association of Futures Brokers and Dealers to form the Securities and Futures Authority.

Earlier this year, the Clucas report recommended that another two SROs, Lauro, the body looking after assurance and unit trusts, and Fimbra, the financial intermediaries managers and brokers body, should merge next year along with 30 per cent of Imro's members dealing with the public to form the Private Investors Authority.

This will reduce the number of SROs to two and two-thirds and, logically, the rumour of Imro which deals with professional investors should be folded into the SFA, whittling down the number of SROs to two. Imro is

resisting absorption but the SIB's assessment of its role in the Maxwell affair along with Imro's self-accusatory report will eventually weaken Imro's effectiveness to its members, who are likely to want to make a fresh start after the Maxwell debacle. Hinting at these and wider changes, Sir David Walker called for a sweeping government review of the regulatory structure for the financial services industry just before he left SIB last month.

He said the system was too fragmented and splintered and this undermined its effectiveness. Sir David said: "It is doubtful whether the present system of fragmentation of responsibility would be built in if the system were now being designed afresh, and I believe that present arrangements for regulation of market-related problems merit early review."

Yesterday Mr Pine said his comments of two years ago were still current and added that the streamlining of the self-regulatory system was its last chance. He said: "If this most recent attempt to revise self regulation does not work then the whole system will be discredited and we will have to look at the introduction of an SEC-style regime."

Sir David's conclusions could support the establishment of an SEC system in Britain although Sir David does not mention this specifically. He did point out the difficulties in investigating market manipulation and insider trading in securities markets by those not covered by the Financial Services Act — something an SEC-style body would have the power to investigate or delegate that authority to others.

Andrew Large, Sir David's successor, assumed the chairmanship at a critical time. Announcing SIB's position on Imro's role in the Maxwell affair yesterday, Mr Large said: "The fact that such a massive fraud could be carried out reflects badly on the United Kingdom corporate and financial system as a whole, as well as on a number of institutions and individuals within that system."

As chairman, he is now concentrating on whether SIB's way of carrying out its supervisory role is appropriate, particularly since the Imro report makes it clear that there was a shortfall in regulatory standards at Imro which the SIB had not identified.

"SIB itself needs to rethink how it plays its part in ensuring that the self-regulatory bodies provide effective investor protection. That is my first priority as chairman of SIB and I shall be consulting widely in the course of my review," he concluded.

Mr Large wants to evolve the existing system without throwing out the parts which do work. "It is not helpful to say we should move toward a system from another country. We should instead concentrate on fixing our own to make it work efficiently."

Mr Large says he wants to restore investors' confidence in the system but unfortunately the system has proved fallible time after time since the Financial Services Act was introduced and what the chairman and his colleagues conclude after their thorough review could spell the end of the sort of self-regulation intended by the act anyway.

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Lewis rides again

STEPHEN Lewis, the professional-looking former top economist at Phillips & Drew, known for his Fifth Horseman newsletters and gloom-and-doom forecasts about Big Bang, is returning to his initial discipline of bond analyst as co-founder of the London Bond Broking Company, an old-style agency bond broker. LBB is a joint venture with Birmingham broker Albert E. Sharp, which has just opened new offices in London Wall. Albert E. Sharp is putting up 55 per cent of the £600,000 capital, while Lewis is personally investing more than £100,000, partly accumulated during three successful years as an independent economist since leaving P&D. Co-founders Robin Baldwin and Tony Bolton, both ex-P&D, are putting up the rest. Lewis, who dominated City polls in the 1980s as a bond analyst, will be LBB's research director and is forecasting a bond market boom. Famous for predicting the City would lose 50,000 jobs in Big Bang, Lewis now says it "lost that many and more besides" but his followers will be relieved to hear he now believes the "days of attrition are over".

Wriggling off

A BEMUSED David Hunter, director of Lehman Brothers, spent yesterday wondering what had become of his PA of 15 years, Rene "Wiggles" Risley. Wiggles, 66, was still missing at 4pm after being whisked off for an impromptu



Lewis: boom-monger

lunch-time photo-call to mark her departure from Lehman, which she joined as the old L. Messel & Co in 1949. The pictures were taken outside Winchester House, Messel's old building, where Risley worked first as PA to Hunter's father Jock, former senior partner at Messel, before being acquired by David. Old Messel colleagues say her going marks the end of an era but Risley will still continue to work for Hunter at NCL Investments, the old Niveson's, where Hunter moved his private client business last year. Hunter, too, will now be based at NCL, but will continue to do futures business for Lehman.

Dynamic duo

BZW has snapped up two top-rated analysts to form a new Scandinavian research team after losing its Nordic specialists earlier this year. Nigel Vandell, 30, for three years the top analyst on Enskilda's top-

rated Scandinavian team, will head the BZW desk from September and is being joined by Taina Ulljas, 26, from Kleinwort Benson's number two rated team. Vandell is one of several senior Enskilda people who have quit recently after the resignation of chief executive Gerard de Geer. Kleinwort has also just lost several key Euro people, including Deborah Rees, head of European equities, who has joined Smith New Court, and Swedish analyst Mikael Sjowall, who defected to Carnegie.

£1m jump-off

TWO years of sponsoring national championship show-jumpers John and Michael Whitaker, at £500,000 a year, has paid off handsomely for pension fund managers Henderson Administration. Both brothers were this week selected for the British Olympic showjumping team in Barcelona, much to the joy of Robin Berrill, managing director of Henderson Unit Trust Management, who masterminded the sponsorship and months ago chartered a plane to Barcelona for August 4, the date of the Olympic showjumping finals. John Whitaker also dominated this week's Royal Show at Stoneleigh winning the Henderson national championship on Henderson Grannusch. Berrill is delighted with the value for money he has had. Henderson is rarely out of the headlines and chartering a plane to Barcelona is "far cheaper than taking clients to Wimbledon for the day."

DEBRA ISAAC

Parliament should remove Lloyd's immunity from suit for negligence

From Mr A Munn

Sir, The Morse Working Party on Governance at Lloyd's recommends for obvious reasons that there should be substantial changes in self-regulations.

According to the report, "the two main purposes of regulation are to protect policyholders on the one hand and the members of Lloyd's on the other", yet Mr Coleridge has repeatedly stated publicly that Lloyd's owes no duty of care to its members.

The two views are thus incompatible, and it is vital that this conflict be resolved with some urgency.

Members of Lloyd's have been deprived of a basic civil right by the 1982 Lloyd's Act. However great the failure to implement effective protection of members, however negligent the Council of Lloyd's might be, however "incompetent, inequitable, inefficient, and woefully regulated" the Walker Committee may have found the market, the Act lays down that neither Lloyd's itself nor its Council is liable in damages at the suit of a member of Lloyd's. That, of course, is not at all the same

thing as having no duty of care to members, but I suspect it is what Mr Coleridge is referring to.

Surely this unique immunity which Parliament has conferred upon Lloyd's must be removed, and now is the time to do it. As the 1982 Act will need to be modified to implement the Morse recommendations, let Parliament amend it further to ensure that if Lloyd's is negligent in regulating the market it becomes liable in damages to those Names who have suffered as the result of its negligence. It should not be necessary for aggrieved Names to take their case to the European Court or to the Court of Human Rights.

Lloyd's Names should seek support from their Members of Parliament to remedy this denial of a fundamental civil right. If Lloyd's is negligent in respect of Names, then it should be possible to recover damages from Lloyd's through the courts.

Yours faithfully
ALEXANDER MUNN
The Cottage
9 Crown Lane
Benson
Oxfordshire

Another five year cycle comes to an end

From Mr Simon D. Baggett
ON 16th July, 1987, the FTSE 100 Index reached its then all time high of 2443.4. It will be interesting to observe whether that Index is at any higher level on 16th July this year. If not, then there will have been a period of five years over which that Index has declined in value, and this will be only the second such period of five years in the entire post-war period. It will

be recalled that the last time such a period of five years came to an end was in 1977: this of course followed the almost total collapse of the stock market in 1974.

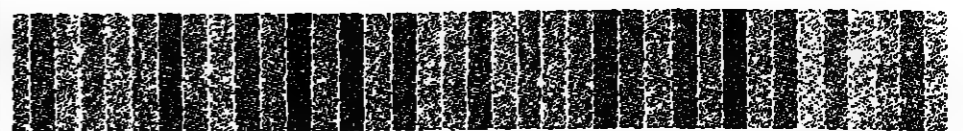
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INFOTECH TIMES

The press-button bank robbery

One bank transfers money to another bank, the second bank acknowledges the transfer... and two young hackers walk away with hundreds of thousands of dollars. Fact or fantasy?

Banks are notoriously secretive about computer fraud losses, yet

data crime is the technological scourge of the 1990s. In this extract from a new book Bryan Clough, an accountant and adviser to New Scotland Yard's computer crime unit, and Paul Mungo, a journalist, describe what may have happened during the "perfect" bank robbery

THOUGH BANKS spend millions protecting their computer systems from intruders they are not necessarily that secure. Bank employees, particularly those who work in dealing rooms, are notorious for using the most obvious passwords, generally those that reflect their own ambitions.

Given such opportunity it could be assumed the banks are being regularly looted by hackers. The mechanics appear straightforward enough: operating from home a hacker should be able to break into a bank's central computer quite anonymously, access the sector dealing with cash transfers, then quickly move the money to an account that he controls, possibly in a false name.

However, in practice the procedure is more complex. Banks use codes to authenticate transfers: in addition, transactions must be confirmed electronically by the recipient of the funds. Because of such safeguards the plundering is probably limited.

But the threat from hackers is still real. There may be twenty hackers in Britain and perhaps a hundred in America with the necessary skills to break into a bank and carry off funds. That's a sizeable number of potential bank robbers.

The most successful bank robbery ever carried out by a

They could get the money out of the bank. Now they had to get it into their pockets

hacker may have occurred two years ago. The target was a branch of a major bank in New York. The identity of the two hackers is unknown, although they are thought to have been in their late teens or early twenties.

The scheme began when the two became aware that certain financial institutions, including banks, use their connections on the various X.25 networks — the computer networks operated by commercial carriers like Telenet or Sprint — to transfer money from one account to another and from one bank to another. The process is known as Electronic Fund Transfer, or EFT.

The two decided that if the funds could be intercepted in mid-transfer and diverted into another account — in this case, a computer file hidden within the system — then they could be redirected, and withdrawn, before the error was noticed.

The hackers began by investigating Telenet. They knew that their target bank had two "address prefixes" of its own — 223 and 224 — on the network these were the prefixes for the seven-digit numbers (or "addresses") that denoted the bank's links to the system.

By churning through sequential numbers they found a series of addresses for the bank's computer terminals. On a weekend, they hacked into eight of them and found their way to the bank's Decnet, an internal Digital network

linking the computers. What had particularly intrigued them were references in the computer systems to an EFT operation run by their target; in files and in the electronic mail they kept turning up allusions to EFT, which pointed, they were convinced, to a terminal that did nothing but transfer funds.

They began sifting through their lists of addresses, looking for one among hundreds that could denote the EFT computer, and by a laborious process of elimination they whittled the lists down to five machines whose function they could not divine.

ONE MACHINE seemed particularly interesting. It could be entered by a debug port, a computer access port used for maintenance, that had been left in default mode — in other words, it could be accessed with the standard manufacturer supplied password, because (yet again) no one had ever bothered to change it.

After an hour of exploration they found a directory that held a tools package, allowing them to create their own programs. With it, they wrote a procedure to copy all incoming and outgoing transmissions on the terminal into their own file.

They named the file "trans" and placed it in a directory they called ".dot, dot, space, space", effectively hiding it from view.

On the first day they captured about 170 different transactions and several hundred more in the following week. At the end of the week, they removed the "trans" file and its directory, killed the capture routine, and went through the system removing any trace that they had ever been there.

From the captured transmissions they were able to piece together the meaning of the control sequence and the transfer itself. They also noticed that after the bank's computer had sent its transfer, the destination bank would repeat the transaction (by way of confirmation) and in ten seconds would message "transaction completed" followed by the destination bank ID.

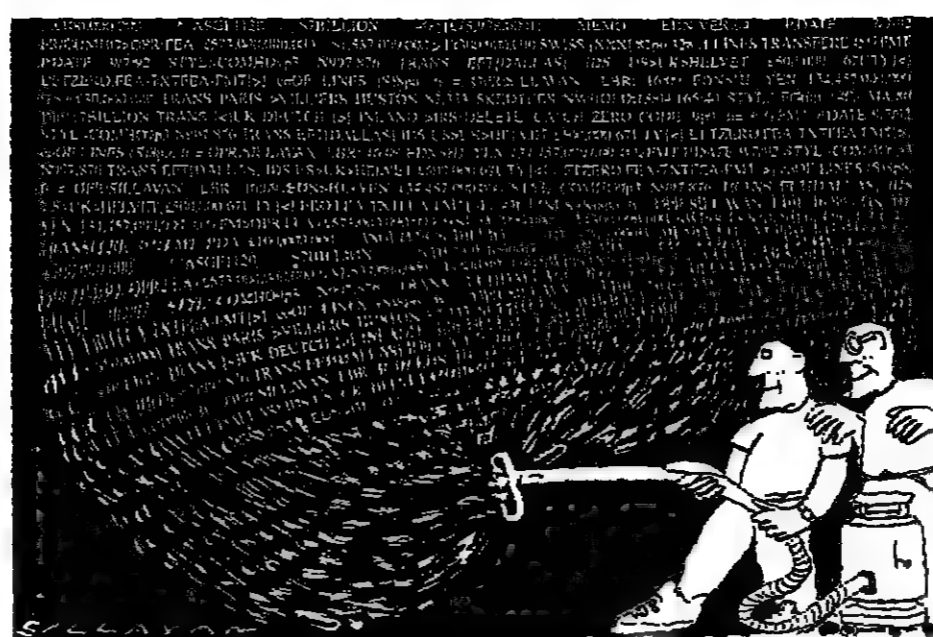
The two guessed that the bank IDs were the standard Federal Reserve numbers for banks (every bank in America that deals with the Federal Reserve System has a number assigned to it, as do several European banks). To confirm the hunch, they called up their target and asked for its Federal Reserve number. It was the same as the ID being sent by the computer.

They were convinced they could get the money out of the bank. Now they had to organize the downstream, a secure process of getting into their own pockets.

One of the duo had a friend,

an accountant of indifferent moral character, who opened a numbered Swiss account in a false name for the two hackers. He had originally laughed at the idea, explaining that an initial \$50,000 (about £25,000) was required to open a numbered account. When he was told to get the forms so the money could be wired to Switzerland, he began to take the scheme seriously.

The two hackers flew to Oklahoma City to visit the hall of records and get new birth certificates. With these they obtained new Oklahoma IDs and social security numbers. Then, using the false IDs, they opened accounts at six different banks in Houston and Dallas with \$1,000 cash



deposited in each one. The next day, armed with one Swiss and six American accounts, they began the attack. They rigged the bank's computer controlling the EFT transfers to direct all of its data

flow to an unused Telenet terminal they had previously discovered.

They took turns sitting on the terminal, collecting the transmissions and returning the correct acknowledgements

with the Federal Reserve IDs. The transmissions each represented a cash transfer. Essentially these were being hijacked. But by sending the required acknowledgements the hackers were giving the

bank "confirmation" that the transactions had reached the destination banks. By noon the two had \$184,300 in their limbo account.

The two then turned off "data forwarding" on the target's computer, taking control of the EFT machine themselves to redistribute the captured funds. By altering the transmissions, they transferred the money to the Swiss account. To the Swiss, it looked like a normal transmission; after all, it had come through the bank's own EFT computer.

After the two hackers received the standard confirmation from the Swiss bank they immediately filled out six withdrawal forms and faxed them to its New York branch, with instructions on where to send the funds.

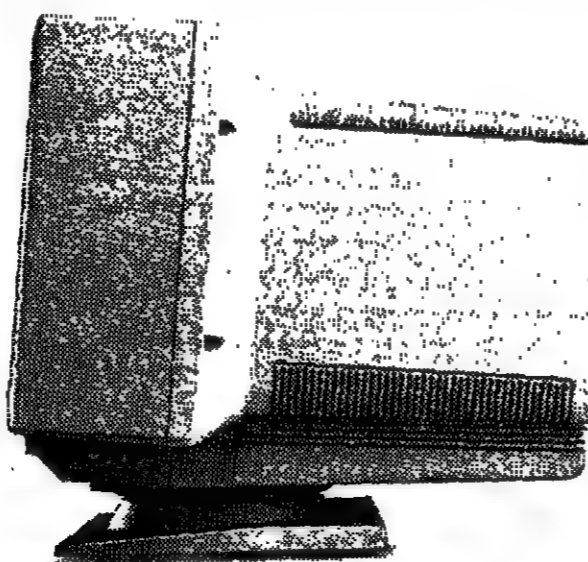
They told the Swiss bank to send \$7,333 to each of the six American accounts (the amount was picked to be below the sum requiring notification to the authorities). They followed the same procedure for three days, leaving the Swiss account with a little over \$52,000 on deposit.

Over the next week they withdrew \$22,000 from each of the Dallas and Houston banks in tranches of \$5,000 per day, leaving just under \$1,000 in each account. At the end of the week each took home \$66,000 in cash.

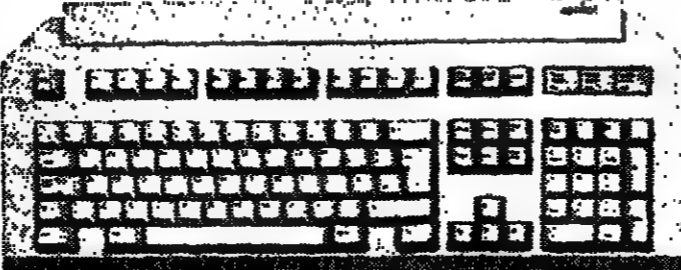
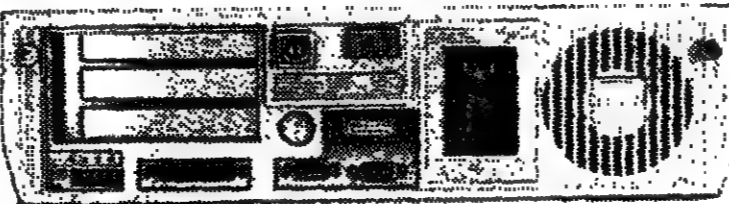
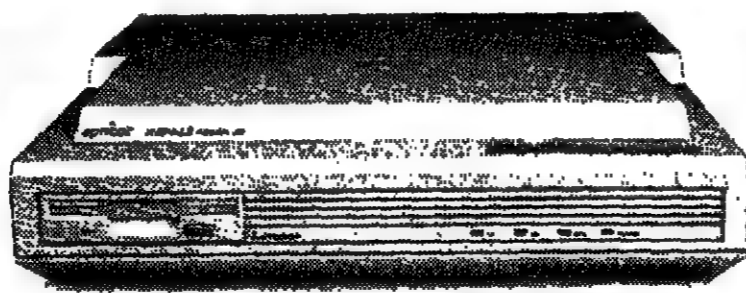
YOU CAN believe that story or not as you wish. The bank in question doesn't believe a word of it: it has consistently denied that anything resembling these events ever happened, or that it has lost money in an EFT transfer due to hacking. The only reason anyone knows about the incident (or non-incident) is that the two hackers posted the details on a pirate board called Black ICE.

The report from the two hackers could have been a fantasy. Equally, if they had managed to pull it off, they still would have wanted to boast about it. And the perfect crime is the one that even the victim doesn't realise has happened.

Approaching Zero. Data Crime and the Computer Underworld by Bryan Clough and Paul Mungo is published by Faber & Faber at £14.99



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The cow revealed

AUSTRALIAN scientists have come up with a high-tech method for assessing the quality of a cow while it is still on the hoof. In the past farmers have used experience, knowledge of cattle genetics and plain luck in deciding when to slaughter. But a new ultrasonic scanner developed by scientists at Australia's Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation takes away the guesswork. The scanner instantly gauges how much marbling — intramuscular fat — is on the

hoof, building a computer image of meat layers. It also gives an estimate of ribeye steak, or the T-bone component, in live cattle far more accurately than any other known method.

Euro awards

TWO mathematicians from Heriot-Watt University in Edinburgh have won awards as outstanding young mathematicians at this week's European Congress of Mathematics. They were among ten mathematicians chosen by an international panel. Stefan Muller won his honour for the application of non-linear analysis, and Vladimir Sverak for a novel solution to the problem: "Does rank-one convexity imply quasi-convexity?"

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Morse have chopped prices on AST bundles: AST Bravo 386SX/20 with 40Mb hard disk, 2Mb RAM, Super VGA colour monitor, Microsoft Windows and DOS 5.0, now £650. AST Bravo 486 25MHz with 80Mb hard disk, 2Mb RAM, monitor, Windows and DOS now £1195. Act now! Prices subject to VAT at 7.5%.

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Arranging her own success

By RODNEY HOBSON

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"I'd like to apply for a season ticket"

Obtaining supplies from the same high-quality wholesalers as the existing florist was no problem and she found a new wholesaler to provide the silk variety. A month later her longer-established rival had closed. Miss Morgan provides fresh, silk or dried flowers for any occasion. Her arrangements grace weddings, christenings, funerals, anniversaries and birthdays. Val-

Her customers now benefit from the ideas she picked up. She gives demonstrations herself on the principle that what people see they will want to buy. She finds that displays at flower clubs, carnivals and fashion shows and for groups such as the Women's Institute bring in a lot of custom. She won the Welsh finals of the Livewire awards for new businesses this year.



2375. ☐ An employee of a small business is twice as likely to have an accident at work than someone working for a larger firm, according to research by National Westminster Bank. However, one in five small businesses do not have employers' liability insurance to cover injury and industrial illness arising through employment.

EDITOR DEREK HARRIS

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Americans present Black with stern test

Christie offers best hope of success at Crystal Palace

BY DAVID POWELL, ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT

IT WAS a nearly-empty stadium that greeted Daley Thompson yesterday, but tonight at Crystal Palace the "house full" signs should be up for a grand prix meeting of which Andy Norman, its promoter, is justifiably proud.

"We have entered the realms of the world class group of meetings like Oslo, Brussels and Zurich," Norman said. Coming only three weeks before the Olympic track programme begins, competition will be keen to show form for Barcelona.

There were a few minor alterations to the cast yesterday with Curtis Robb, the British Olympic trial winner, coming into the 800 metres, Linford Christie dropping out of the 200 metres and Mary Slaney withdrawing from her 2,000 metres against Zola Pieterse and Yvonne Murray. Robb may be joined by Matthew Yates who, following illness, is considering rejoining the international ranks.

Yates, the European indoor 1,500 metres champion, had his first race for a month on Wednesday, a 1,500 metres in Watford that he won in 3min 49.1sec. He finished with a last lap of 55 seconds, leaving his father-coach, Mike Yates, optimistic for the Olympics.

"He is recovering remarkably well," Yates Sr said. Yates Jr was waiting until today before deciding whether to run tonight in either the 800 or 1,500 metres.

After finishing behind John Regis over 200 metres in Lausanne on Wednesday, Christie has changed his mind about doubling tonight, but he should recapture the winning feeling in the 100 metres after his first defeat of the season, by Olapade Adeniken, in Switzerland.

The 100 metres is perhaps the only men's British victory we can take for granted, though the timely return to form of Kriss Akabusi in Lausanne suggests that he should be too good for a 400 metres hurdles field in which he is the only potential Barcelona medal winner.

The 400 metres, the 5,000 metres and the high hurdles should be the highlights of the men's programme, though one good throw from Steve Backley could direct attention towards the javelin, just as it did two years ago. In the Paraforce Games (TSB is now the sponsor), few people noticed a fine climax to the 1,500 metres, between Yates and Neil Horsfield, when

Backley launched his javelin to a world record.

In the 400 metres, Roger Black faces not only Michael Johnson, the acknowledged world No. 1, but also Steve Lewis, the Olympic champion. It had not been intended for Black to race both, but when there was a doubt over Johnson, Norman hired Lewis as a substitute.

Antonio Pettigrew, the world champion who failed to qualify for the United States' Olympic team, will want to show that the Games will be worse off for his absence.

There are no missing VIPs from the high hurdles. Five probable Olympic finalists do battle: Arthur Blake, Jack Pierce and Tony Dees, from the United States; Colin Jackson, and Tony Jarrett, from Britain.

Collectively, Ian Hamer, Jack Buckner and Rob Denmark will be the fastest combination of British 5,000 metres runners seen on a home track. By filling three of the first four places in Rome a month ago, all around 13min 10sec, they rewrote the national rankings. However, Paul Bink, a Kenyan in tonight's field, ran faster with his 13min 8.8sec in Oslo.

For Hamer, whose 13min 9.80sec for victory in Rome raised him to second in the UK all-time rankings, this is his only 5,000 metres between then and Barcelona. It was to have been Lausanne, "but then I heard it was going to be one of those moonshot jobs".

It was indeed, Yobes Ondieki chasing the world record and only just missing. Ondieki's 13min 03.58sec was a reminder that, if they overcome one Kenyan threat tonight, there will be a bigger one waiting in Barcelona.



Back in form: Akabusi has emerged from a poor spell in time to challenge tonight

Drug ban for S Africans

Cape Town: Two South African athletes have been suspended for using banned drugs, taking the total banned this year to five. Charl Matheus was suspended for three months for using stimulants and will be stripped of his Comrades Marathon title, and Charmaine Barnard, a triple jumper, was suspended for four years after a second

positive test for anabolic steroids. **Oslo:** Natalya Artyomova, of the Commonwealth of Independent States, is being reported to the International Amateur Athletic Federation following an alleged irregularity at doping control after she had finished second in the mile at the Bislett Games on Saturday. (Reuters)

EQUESTRIANISM

Driving test for new faces

BY JENNY MACARTHUR

GEORGE Bowman, the national driving champion and one of the favourites for an individual medal, heads the British team at the World Driving Championships at Riesenbeck, Germany, from August 21 to 23.

The team also includes John Richards, one of the founders of the sport in Britain, and two unfamiliar names — Geoffrey Woods, a builder from Hertfordshire, and Fred Pendlebury, a breeder of mares from West Yorkshire. The latter two earned their places after finishing second and third at the final trials at Sandringham.

Bowman, a member of the gold medal-winning team in 1980 — where he also won the individual silver — has "his best chance ever" of an individual medal with his team of Black Cumberland Cobs. The Cumberland, aged 55, has won four events this season, his ability in the dressage arena now matching his skill in the marathon.

Woods, aged 53, who bought his team of Continental warm bloods from David Saunders, a former coachman to the Duke of Edinburgh, has been placed regularly this season. Pendlebury, aged 49, has been driving a team for six years and reliability has earned him a place. Richards, an experienced team member, won at Tatton Park in June with his team of warm-blood geldings.

All four drivers will use the controversial "bendy pole" on their carriages, which enables a driver to understeer. But it can make a driver lose control down a steep hill.

BRITISH TEAM: G. Bowman, S. Pendlebury, J. Richards, G. Woods

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CYCLING: AUDACIOUS BONTEMPI TAKES FIFTH TOUR DE FRANCE STAGE

Bauer profits from long escape

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

Wasquehal: An audacious sprint five kilometres from the finish took Guido Bontempi, of Italy, well clear of a ten-strong breakaway group and to victory in yesterday's fifth stage of the Tour de France from Nogent-sur-Oise to this suburb of Roubaix.

The nine behind him included the Canadian, Steve Bauer, riding for the American Motorola team, who accordingly moved up from thirteenth to third place overall. Pascal Lino, of France, retained the yellow jersey.

It was three and a half minutes before the arrival of the field, which included Lino. As race leader, he had been cosseted throughout the day by the entire RMO squad,

among them Charly Mottet, a Tour favourite already burdened with a six-minute deficit. The Spaniard, Miguel Indurain, the defending champion, slipped two places to ninth, though with the same 5min 33sec deficit.

Today's fifth 167km stage

from Roubaix into Belgium to a Brussels finish includes several short, sharp climbs, among them the dreaded Mur at Grammont. Repeated attacks can be expected from the Belgian and Dutch teams who are specialists in this type of terrain. The climbers' time

will come next week in the Alps.

Bontempi, a specialist in audacious moves who has now won 15 stages in the three main tours of France, Italy and Spain, was in the bunch of 10 riders who broke away early and built up a respectable lead on the main peloton. He caught the rest by surprise with his sudden surge of speed and crossed the finish line 30 seconds ahead of Dmitry Konyshov, of the CIS, a member of the Dutch TVM team.

"I knew there were other riders who could beat me in a sprint, so I decided to go five kilometres out," Bontempi said. "I'm very tired but it was worth it." The other eight came in six seconds behind Konyshov, led by Olaf Ludwig, of Germany.

YESTERDAY'S STAGE RESULT

FIFTH STAGE (Nogent-sur-Oise to Wasquehal, 167km): 1. G. Bontempi (It, Carrera), 4hr 08min 01sec; 2. D. Konyshov (Cis, TVM), 4hr 08min 31sec; 3. D. Ludwig (Ger, Panasonic), 4hr 09min 01sec; 4. M. Indurain (Sp, Banesto), 4hr 09min 31sec; 5. J. M. Rodriguez (Sp, Banesto), 4hr 10min 01sec; 6. J. M. Rodriguez (Sp, Banesto), 4hr 10min 31sec; 7. J. M. Rodriguez (Sp, Banesto), 4hr 11min 01sec; 8. J. M. Rodriguez (Sp, Banesto), 4hr 11min 31sec; 9. J. M. Rodriguez (Sp, Banesto), 4hr 12min 01sec; 10. J. M. Rodriguez (Sp, Banesto), 4hr 12min 31sec; 11. J. M. Rodriguez (Sp, Banesto), 4hr 13min 01sec; 12. J. M. Rodriguez (Sp, Banesto), 4hr 13min 31sec; 13. J. M. Rodriguez (Sp, Banesto), 4hr 14min 01sec; 14. J. M. Rodriguez (Sp, Banesto), 4hr 14min 31sec; 15. J. M. Rodriguez (Sp, Banesto), 4hr 15min 01sec; 16. J. M. Rodriguez (Sp, Banesto), 4hr 15min 31sec; 17. J. M. Rodriguez (Sp, Banesto), 4hr 16min 01sec; 18. J. M. Rodriguez (Sp, Banesto), 4hr 16min 31sec; 19. J. M. 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Rodriguez (Sp, Banesto), 6hr 34min 31sec; 295. J. M. Rodriguez (Sp, Banesto), 6hr 35min 01sec; 296. J. M. Rodriguez (Sp, Banesto), 6hr 35min 31sec; 297. J. M. Rodriguez (Sp, Banesto), 6hr 36min 01sec; 298. J. M. Rodriguez (Sp, Banesto), 6hr 36min 31sec; 299. J. M. Rodriguez (Sp, Banesto), 6hr 37min 01sec; 300. J. M. Rodriguez (Sp, Banesto), 6hr 37min 31sec; 301. J. M. Rodriguez (Sp, Banesto), 6hr 38min 01sec; 302. J. M. Rodriguez (Sp, Banesto), 6hr 38min 31sec; 303. J. M. Rodriguez (Sp, Banesto), 6hr 39min 01sec; 304. J. M. Rodriguez (Sp, Banesto), 6hr 39min 31sec; 305. J. M. Rodriguez (Sp, Banesto), 6hr 40min 01sec; 306.

NatWest Trophy holders slip up against Kent in dress rehearsal for Benson and Hedges Cup final

Ealham stays calm in rousing finish to oust Hampshire

By SIMON WILDE

SOUTHAMPTON (Kent won toss): Kent beat Hampshire by two wickets

THIS was an extraordinary game of cat and mouse. With both sides having one eye on the Benson and Hedges Cup final tomorrow, neither appeared sufficiently confident to go for the jugular and, in the end, Hampshire choked on getting a first taste of victory.

The NatWest Trophy holders, who had victory in their sights when Kent, needing 244 to win, were 211 for seven with five overs left, thus failed to reach the semi-finals of the competition for the first time since 1987.

A pulsating finish was set up when the Kent pair of Trevor Ward, who made 92 off 144 balls, and Carl Hooper, who hit a fluent 40 during their third-wicket partnership of 92 in 20 overs, fell in quick succession to Udal, the off-spinner, triggering a collapse. Before Hooper fell to a catch at long on, having been dropped the previous ball, Kent had required only 78 off 14 overs. In the end, however, they were seen home by some calm batting from Mark Ealham, who made an unbeaten 33 and hit the winning runs with five balls to spare.

Terry and Middleton gave Hampshire the sort of start, in a partnership of 108, from which a match-winning total ought to have been built. In 34 overs, they kept at bay everything Benson could throw at them, ran intelligently and forced the Kent captain to bring back his strike bowler, Igglesden, much earlier than he would have liked.

In his second over back, Igglesden made the breakthrough — Middleton caught that slip for 43 — and with it came the first lurch in fortunes. Smith came in with the red mist before his eyes, promptly pulled Davis for a risky six and then, in the last over of the morning session, charged for a second run to McCague at square leg that was never there.

Although Gower survived until lunch, he lasted only three overs afterwards, dropping a ball from Davis's mid-on. At 151 for three after 43 overs, things were back in the balance.

Terry, already into the seventies, was joined by a bustling Nicholas and, in the next ten overs together, they added 61. With Terry having reached his second century in this year's competition and the remaining overs to be bowled by McCague, Davis and Fleming, Hampshire were

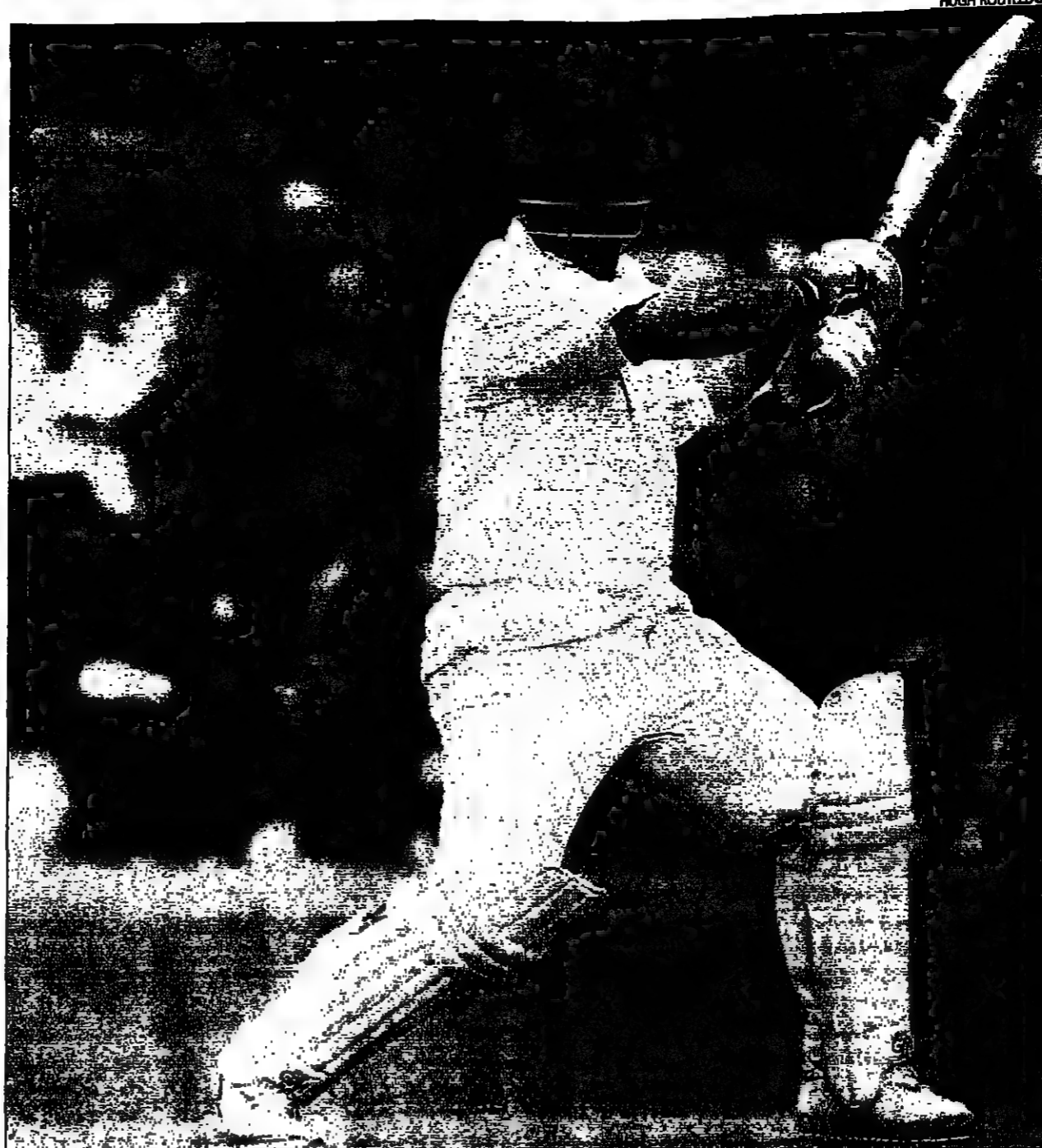
looking at a total in excess of 270.

Then came the game's second lurch. In the last seven overs, Hampshire inexplicably lost six wickets for 31 and offered two further chances that were not taken. Three of the wickets fell in seven balls to Fleming's modest medium pace. Far from accelerating, Hampshire virtually ground to a halt once Nicholas was run out by Hooper for 25 and Terry, having batted 179 balls and hit 13 fours in his 109, caught in the covers.

When Kent batted, their first priority was not to lose several early wickets. Largely thanks to Ward, this was accomplished, but Hampshire kept themselves in the match with timely strikes.

In the eighth over, Benson was well taken by Mari at slip and, in the 26th over, Taylor brilliantly held on the long off boundary by Connor. Then came the partnership between Ward and Hooper which appeared to have put Kent on course to a comfortable victory.

Chris Cowdrey, the former England captain, Tony Dodemaide, of Australia, Ian Greig and David Bairstow, will play for the Duchess of Norfolk's XI against Transvaal at Arundel on July 22.



Cutting edge: Gattling slams another boundary on his way to 57 for Middlesex against Durham

RUGBY UNION

Wales miss place in last eight

FROM CHRIS THAU IN CAGLIARI

WALES, who were defeated 15-7 by New Zealand, are the only home union to have missed the quarter-finals of the Students' World Cup here in Sardinia.

Their gallant challenge stretched the champions, New Zealand, to the limit on Wednesday, but the remaining quarter-final place from their group went to Romania, who beat the Welsh 21-6 last weekend.

Although Ireland and Scotland lost their pool matches on Wednesday, 17-6 to Italy and 38-15 to France respectively, they advanced into the last eight because of their earlier wins.

Ireland reached the quarter-finals on the strength of their earlier 35-16 win against the Commonwealth of Independent States. The CIS, though sharing the same number of points with Italy and Ireland, were placed third because they had a player sent off in their game against Ireland.

Scotland, well beaten by France — the winners of the Genoa pool — are also through but the Scots play the formidable Argentine students, the pool conquerors of South Africa and England, in their quarter-final in Cagliari.

England redeemed themselves after the humiliation at the hands of Argentina with an impressive win against South Africa students, making their international debut. England students, with a quarter-final slot at stake, produced their finest performance to date to reach the knockout stage of the tournament and send a disappointed South Africa home empty handed.

Having learned to live dangerously against Argentina and South Africa, England cherish the prospect of taking on their traditional opponent, France, the undefeated five nations' champion of the students, in the quarter-final.

Wales' Group A: July 17, Ireland 6; Group B: France 26; Scotland 15; Group C: England 20; South Africa 13; Group D: New Zealand 15; Wales 7.

Quarter-finals (all in Cagliari): July 11; Italy v Romania; Ireland v France; Argentina v Scotland; New Zealand v Wales.

POLO

Late surge overcomes Los Locos

By JOHN WATSON

SIMON and Claire Tomlinson, of Los Locos, boxed their ponies from Gloucestershire to Sussex yesterday, to take on Peter Scott's Pendell, at Ambersham, in League One of the British Open championship for the Cowdray Park Gold Cup.

There was nothing to choose between the general strengths of these two squads, although Pendell registered an aggregate team handicap of 23 against the Los Locos 22. Pendell's 23 — explained by the promotion of their Ignacio Heguy from six to seven since the entries for the tournament closed — is one point above the upper limit for the British Open. So Los Locos started the match with one on the scoreboard.

The one-eyed Argentinian, Juni Croton, produced the best sessions with his wonderful long lofted drives; and, for Pendell, the Heguys, admirably mounted on Peter Scott's string, gave some impressive tactical displays, while their No. 1, Andrew Hine, frequently took advantage of being unmarked.

Neither side was ahead by more than one goal until the last chukka when Pendell went into a 10-8 lead. But Croton took Pendell's victory to 10-9 just before the last bell.

The second encounter, also in league one, was between James Packer's Ellerton Black and Galen Weston's Maple Leafs.

With Ellerton aggregating 23, Maple Leafs began with a handicap goal, but Ellerton won 7-6.

Ellerton Black now lead league one while Ellerton White and the Black Bears are at the head of league two. Alcatraz and Trigonoma top league three.

Durham make light of Wood's tumble

By IVO TENNANT

Gloucestershire's showing would have been dismal without a resolute third wicket stand between Hinks and Wright. They came together at 12 for two in the eighth over after Caddick beat Hodgson's forward prod and had Athey held off a glove at square-leg against a lifting ball.

It was not until MacLay and Truap became the fifth and sixth bowlers used by the batsmen were able to break free, with Wright leading the way. They had added 140 in 36 overs when Caddick returned and Wright was taken at point when he attempted to cut his second ball. In Caddick's third over back, Hinks played on as he tried to on-drive.

He took no further part in the match. In his place, Smith and Jones bowled twelve overs between them for 66. They, like their captain, could have been reasonably pleased with restricting Middlesex to 259 for eight.

Several batsmen threatened to play a major part but ultimately not one did. Gattling was awarded a warm reception on a day when he spoke tactically of Test cricket having not been the be-all and end-all of his life. He may be free to play for England now, but Middlesex, he said, are his immediate priority.

To that end he struck 57 off 82 balls before carelessly running himself out through changing a single to Larkins at mid-off. Ramprakash and Carr who batted as freely as anyone, were both out to imprudent pulls at a stage when they could still have collected runs at will. Only some strong-armed blows by Brown, including the only six of the innings, gave Middlesex a tolerable total.

Not that Durham's start was at all propitious. Larkins went in the first over, skying a pull at Taylor to second slip. Middlesex must also have regretted not removing Glendenen for a duck. The chance to square leg was not a difficult one. After that, Durham batted with greater calm.

While more grass was taken off the popping crease, Wood was carried off by his colleagues with a twisted knee.

Fordham: hard-hit 78

Somerset collapse proves fatal

By RICHARD STREETON

TAUNTON (Gloucestershire won toss): Gloucestershire beat Somerset by 22 runs

A STARTLING collapse by Somerset, who lost four main batsmen in four successive overs, cost them their chance of victory in this second round NatWest Trophy match yesterday when they seemed in control. Needing 236 to win, Somerset reached 147 for one before they slumped and were never able to recover.

Somerset received a good start and moved steadily towards their target as Lathwell and Harden added 92 in 19 overs for the second wicket. Lathwell showed all the wristy

strokes and confidence that are rapidly becoming his trademark until he lifted a drive against Scott slightly off the ground and Babington took a good catch diving to his left at mid-on.

Tavare was then caught down the leg side trying to glance Walsh, before Scott had Harden caught behind from an inside edge. In the next over Walsh had Ross leg-before. Somerset needed 80 from 18 overs and Burns and MacLay carefully added 33 in eight before MacLay was caught behind off Babington.

Burns continued to hit shrewdly before he pulled a catch to midwicket, with 31 still wanted. It was too much. Mallerder gave Russell his

fifth catch behind the wicket before Walsh took the last two wickets in the 56th over.

Previously the 6ft 5in Caddick consistently imposed his will on the Gloucestershire batsmen as he took two wickets in each of his three spells and he was given the man of the match award. His height enabled him to extract disconcerting bounce from a pitch, which always helped the quicker men. He also held a swishing catch to dismiss Scott with deceptive ease.

Born in New Zealand to English parents, Caddick is now English qualified. He began this season promisingly before ankle injuries interrupted his progress but this success should help his confidence.

Northamptonshire confirm their challenge

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE overwhelmed Yorkshire by 133 runs in their NatWest Trophy second-round match at Northampton yesterday and the performance will have strengthened the belief among their players that this could be their season to win one of the main county competitions. They are third in the championship.

With Alan Fordham making 78 off 96 balls and Allan Lamb 69 off 58 Northamptonshire amassed 325 for seven, their highest total, by 41 runs, against a first-class county in the NatWest. Then Curly Ambrose struck at el-

ther end of the Yorkshire innings to finish with four for seven from 8.3 overs and the man-of-the-match award.

Fordham and Felton put Northamptonshire in charge with an opening stand of 129 in 31 overs, which was a perfect foundation for Lamb. Penberthy and Curran, Yorkshire's innings was quickly in tatters. Blakey and White batted defiantly before Ambrose returned to remove Blakey and Curran with successive balls.

The matches at Derby and Edgbaston were badly affected by the weather, so all four teams engaged there will go

into the bag when the draw for the quarter-finals is made at Lord's this morning.

Leicestershire's bowlers established a platform for victory by removing both Derbyshire openers before the players finally came off for bad light. Derbyshire will need a further 193 off 56.3 overs.

Warwickshire restricted Sussex to 149 for nine off 53 overs, holding the upper hand from the fourth ball of the innings, when Donald removed Hall. Three batsmen were run out and a sixth-wicket partnership of 68 between Wells and Stephenson was the only one of substance.



Fordham: hard-hit 78

YESTERDAY'S NATWEST TROPHY SCOREBOARDS

Somerset v Gloucs

TAUNTON (Gloucestershire won toss): Gloucestershire beat Somerset by 22 runs

Gloucestershire: 236 (all out, 56.3 overs). Somerset: 147 (all out, 36.3 overs).

Gloucestershire: 1-1, 2-16, 3-26, 4-38, 5-43, 6-61, 7-117, 8-151, 9-161, 10-171, 11-181, 12-191, 13-201, 14-211, 15-221, 16-231, 17-241, 18-251, 19-261, 20-271, 21-281, 22-291, 23-301, 24-311, 25-321, 26-331, 27-341, 28-351, 29-361, 30-371, 31-381, 32-391, 33-401, 34-411, 35-421, 36-431, 37-441, 38-451, 39-461, 40-471, 41-481, 42-491, 43-501, 44-511, 45-521, 46-531, 47-541, 48-551, 49-561, 50-571, 51-581, 52-591, 53-601, 54-611, 55-621, 56-631, 57-641, 58-651, 59-661, 60-671, 61-681, 62-691, 63-701, 64-711, 65-721, 66-731, 67-741, 68-751, 69-761, 70-771, 71-781, 72-791, 73-801, 74-811, 75-821, 76-831, 77-841, 78-851, 79-861, 80-871, 81-881, 82-891, 83-901, 84-911, 85-921, 86-931, 87-941, 88-951, 89-961, 90-971, 91-981, 92-991, 93-1001, 94-1011, 95-1021, 96-1031, 97-1041, 98-1051, 99-1061, 100-1071, 101-1081, 102-1091, 103-1101, 104-1111, 105-1121, 106-1131, 107-1141, 108-1151, 109-1161, 110-1171, 111-1181, 112-1191, 113-1201, 114-1211, 115-1221, 116-1231, 117-1241, 118-1251, 119-1261, 120-1271, 121-1281, 122-1291, 123-1301, 124-1311, 125-1321, 126-1331, 127-1341, 128-1351, 129-1361, 130-1371, 131-1381, 132-1391, 133-1401, 134-1411, 135-1421, 136-1431, 137-1441, 138-1451, 139-1461, 140-1471, 141-1481, 142-1491, 143-1501, 144-1511, 145-1521, 146-1531, 147-1541, 148-1551, 149-1561, 150-1571, 151-1581, 152-1591, 153-1601, 154-1611, 155-1621, 156-1631, 157-1641, 158-1651, 159-1661, 160-1671, 161-1681, 162-1691, 163-1701, 164-1711, 165-1721, 166-1731, 167-1741, 168-1751, 169-1761, 170-1771, 171-1781, 172-1791, 173-1801, 174-1811, 175-1821, 176-1831, 177-1841, 178-1851, 179-1861, 180-1871, 181-1881, 182-1891, 183-1901, 184-1911, 185-1921, 186-1931, 187-1941, 188-1951, 189-1961, 190-1971, 191-1981, 192-1991, 193-2001, 194-2011, 195-2021, 196-2031, 197-2041, 198-2051, 199-2061, 200-2071, 201-2081, 202-2091, 203-2101, 204-2111, 205-2121, 206-2131, 207-2141, 208-2151, 209-2161, 210-2171, 211-2181, 212-2191, 213-2201, 214-2211, 215-2221, 216-2231, 217-2241, 218-2251, 219-2261, 220-2271, 221-2281, 222-2291, 223-2301, 224-2311, 225-2321, 226-2331, 227-2341, 228-2351, 229-2361, 230-2371, 231-2381, 232-2391, 233-2401, 234-2411, 235-2421, 236-2431, 237-2441, 238-2451, 239-2461, 240-2471, 241-2481, 242-2491, 243-2501, 244-2511, 245-2521, 246-2531, 247-2541, 248-2551, 249-2561, 250-2571, 251-2581, 252-2591, 253-2601, 254-2611, 255-2621, 256-2631, 257-2641, 258-2651, 259-2661, 260-2671, 261-2681, 262-2691, 263-2701, 264-2711, 265-2721, 266-2731, 267-2741, 268-2751, 269-2761, 270-2771, 271-2781, 272-2791, 273-2801, 274-2811, 275-2821, 276-2831, 277-2841, 278-2851, 279-2861, 280-2871, 281-2881, 282-2891, 283-2901, 284-2911, 285-2921, 286-2931, 287-2941, 288-2951, 289-2961, 290-2971, 291-2981, 292-2991, 293-3001, 294-3011, 295-3021, 296-3031, 297-3041, 298-3051, 299-3061, 300-3071, 301-3081, 302-3091, 303-3101, 304-3111, 305-3121, 306-3131, 307-3141, 308-3151, 309-3161, 310-3171, 311-3181, 312-3191, 313-3201, 314-3211, 315-3221, 316-3231, 317-3241, 318-3251, 319-3261, 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520-5271, 521-5281, 522-5291, 523-5301, 524-5311, 525-5321, 526-5331, 527-5341, 528-5351, 529-5361, 530-5371, 531-5381, 532-5391, 533-5401, 534-5411, 535-5421, 536-5431, 537-5441, 538-5451, 539-5461, 540-5471, 541-5481, 542-5491, 543-5501, 544-5511, 545-5521, 546-5531, 547-5541, 548-5551, 549-5561, 550-5571, 551-5581, 552-5591, 553-5601, 554-5611, 555-5621, 556-5631, 557-5641, 558-5651, 559-5661, 560-5671, 561-5681, 562-5691, 563-5701, 564-5711, 565-5721, 566-5731, 567-5741, 568-5751, 569-5761, 570-5771, 571-5781, 572-5791, 573-5801, 574-5811, 575-5821, 576-5831, 577-5841, 578-5851, 579-5861, 580-5871, 581-5881, 582-5891, 583-5901, 584-5911, 585-5921, 586-5931, 587-5941, 588-5951, 589-5961, 590-5971, 591-5981, 592-5991, 593-6001, 594-6011, 595-6021, 596-6031, 597-6041, 598-6051, 599-6061, 600-6071, 601-6081, 602-6091, 603-6101, 604-6111, 605-6121, 606-6131, 607-6141, 608-6151, 609-6161, 610-6171, 611-6181, 612-6191, 613-6201, 614-6211, 615-6221, 616-6231, 617-6241, 618-6251, 619-6261, 620-6271, 621-6281, 622-6291, 623-6301, 624-6311, 625-6321, 626-6331, 627-6341, 628-6351, 629-6361, 630-6371, 631-6381, 632-6391, 633-6401, 634-6411, 635-6421, 636-6431, 637-6441, 638-6451, 639-6461, 640-6471, 641-6481, 642-6491, 643-6501, 644-6511, 645-6521, 646-6531, 647-6541, 648-6551, 649-6561, 650-6571, 651-6581, 652-6591, 653-6601, 654-6611, 655-6621, 656-6631, 657-6641, 658-6651, 659-6661, 660-6671, 661-6681, 662-6691, 663-6701, 664-6711, 665-6721, 666-6731, 667-6741, 668-6751, 669-6761, 670-6771, 671-6781, 672-6791, 673-6801, 674-6811, 675-6821, 676-6831, 677-6841, 678-6851, 679-6861, 680-6871, 681-6881,

FRIDAY JULY 10 1992

British great retires from international athletics

Thompson drops out of race against time

By DAVID POWELL, ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT

DALEY Thompson, Britain's finest-ever all-round athlete, announced his retirement from international athletics yesterday after his last desperate attempt to qualify for a fifth Olympic Games was cut short by injury.

"Nobody has a divine right, and if you can't make the grade you don't deserve to be there," he said. "I didn't make the grade," Thompson, twice the Olympic champion and the still holder of the world record, said.

Thompson, aged 33 but without a decathlon victory for the last six years, went to Crystal Palace yesterday morning for a ten-event competition which he hoped would enable him to share with Tessa Sanderson a piece of history. If he could score 7,550 points he would be on the plane to Barcelona. But he did not score any points.

Now Sanderson goes alone as the first British athlete to compete at five Olympics.

After three false starts in the first event, the 100 metres, one caused by him, Thompson burst from his blocks but did not reach halfway before a

torn hamstring forced him to pull up. After half an hour's treatment he emerged to say: "That's it internationally. Frank Dick [his adviser] says so, and I say so too."

It was a pity that his exit had to be made in such circumstances. Dick, Britain's chief coach, had been saying only a few weeks earlier that "the last thing" the nation wanted was athletes scrambling around for Olympic qualifying marks close on deadline. With the qualifying deadline set at midnight tonight, Thompson had become the scumbler of scumbler, trying two decathlons in a week. But he finished neither.

Yesterday he said he had enjoyed every decathlon he had ever done "except the last two weekends". But he was typically unrepentant. He brushed off his brief appearance at Crystal Palace, saying: "It was only five seconds, but it was an impressive five seconds, don't you think?" His supporters, though, will prefer to remember the Thompson heyday, when he won every prize in the sport worth having.

He confessed to feelings of "big disappointment" over failing to make it to Barcelona. "I enjoy what I am doing but I just don't do it as well as I used to," he said. "Like everyone else in life, I want to stay young, and mixing with the guys keeps me young." He said he would carry on at club level.

There was both tribute and arrogance as he bade his farewell. Tribute to Coe, Ovett and Cram. "I owe everything I have got to Seb Coe, Steve Cram and Steve Ovett," he said. "If it was not for those blokes taking athletics to the heights I would not have had a springboard to jump from."

Arrogance regarding Dan O'Brien, the world champion, who failed to qualify for the Olympics because he did not clear a height in the pole vault in the United States trials. Was O'Brien's failure to make the Games not a bigger tragedy than his? "No, my tragedy is bigger," Thompson said.

In an event where so much can go wrong, Thompson achieved the distinction of winning 12 decathlons in succession between his Euro-

pean silver medal of 1978 and his ninth place in the world championships of 1987, when he was hampered by a groin injury.

He made a mini-revival in 1988, finishing fourth in the Seoul Olympics, but has not completed a decathlon since.

Thompson's controversial behaviour was tolerated because of his success at sport. And so it proved to the end: the chairman of Britain's Olympic selectors voted in favour of giving Thompson an extended deadline to make the team, even though it was the chairman's child who some years ago was sworn at when she asked Thompson for his autograph.

In 1982 Thompson refused to carry the flag at the Commonwealth Games opening ceremony, saying it would interfere with his preparations and, after winning the European championship in 1986, he revealed a victory T-shirt before a Stuttgart crowd, which read: "Germany's favourite sons - Bernhard, Boris and Daley". He made jokes about Princess Anne and swore when he received his BBC sports personality of the year award.

Though he started out as a high jumper, it soon became apparent that his natural speed was his great gift. But it was his mental toughness that served him best. He told us yesterday: "If I was competing against anybody in the world with the same physical talent, because of my mental application I could beat anybody at anything," he said.

But yesterday was the day when his body outplayed his mind.

Akabusi's boost, page 30

DALEY THOMPSON FACTFILE



Thompson: bowing out

Born: Kensington, London, July 30, 1958
Club: Newton and Essex College
Height: 6ft 4in, Weight: 131lb
Decathlon highlights (all scored on 1985 decathlon tables)
1975: Welsh open 6,850pts, first, UK v France (Commonwealth record), second
1976: AAA championships (Commonwealth record), 7,434 (UK all-comers record), Montreal Olympics, 7,434, eighteenth, international, Talence, France, 7,303 (world junior, UK and Commonwealth record)
1977: Goetz, Austria, 7,921 (world junior, UK and Commonwealth record), Madrid, 7,890 (UK all-comers record), European Cup semi-final, Stuttgart, 7,824, European junior championships (Donetsk, USSR), 8,047, first
1978: Goetz, 8,258 (UK and Commonwealth record), Commonwealth Games

(Edmonton), 8,467, first, European championships (Prague), 8,288 (UK and Commonwealth record), second
1980: Goetz, 8,622 (world record), Moscow Olympics, 8,486, first
1982: Goetz, 8,704 (world record), European championships (Athens), 8,743 (world record), first, Commonwealth Games (Brisbane), 8,410, first
1983: Saskatoon, Canada, 8,559, World championships (Helsinki), 8,660, first
1984: Los Angeles Olympics, 8,847 (world record), first
1986: UK v France v Canada (Paris), 8,657, Commonwealth Games (Edinburgh), 8,663, first, European championships (Stuttgart), 8,611, first
1987: World championships (Rome), 8,124, ninth
1988: Seoul Olympics, 8,306, fourth

The great show comes to an end

By DAVID POWELL

MRS Pauline Bennett and family, from Sidcup, had paid £4 a head to get in and were just nudging into lunch at Crystal Palace when their day out was ruined. Behind them, some 60 schoolchildren from Ashford had their fun cut short too. The Daley Thompson Show was over in no time. Was this another Thompson world record? A decathlon

lasting five seconds. In one of the most bizarre fixtures in British athletics history, a decathlon had been hastily arranged to give Thompson one last shot at qualifying for the Olympics.

Never in his illustrious career, which took him to two Olympic, one world, two European and three Commonwealth gold medals and four world records, had he attempted a decathlon in England.

and the Bennetts were not going to miss it.

But he was not overwhelmed with support. A couple of hundred at most in a 17,000-capacity stadium. "It's the first time I've watched him," Mrs Bennett was saying as the first event, the 100 metres, got under way. "I just wanted to see him compete."

And for five seconds she caught a first-hand glimpse of Thompson in glorious flight: at 45 metres Thompson, aged 33 and four years on from his last decathlon, was leading. But it was over in the bite of a sandwich.

"Oh no," Mrs Bennett cried as Thompson pulled up in agony, his hamstring torn and his chance of competing in his fifth Olympics gone. So, like the Ashford schoolchildren, the Bennetts packed up and left. Seven other decathletes carried on the show but what had they ever won?

Photographers swarmed round Thompson, as he lay on the ground, taking pictures to illustrate the last chapter of his long and controversial career. But Thompson was not ready to mourn. Instead he gave us a joke. "It's okay guys," he shouted. "Andy Norman is fixing me up with a one-hour decathlon tomorrow."

Yesterday's affair had been a crude attempt at yanking Thompson on to the Olympic team. Norman, Britain's promotions officer, had been party to the last-minute rush to put on a decathlon before tonight's deadline. It was Thompson's last option after he had withdrawn before half-way in his previous attempt in Norway, on Saturday.

Such lengths — bringing in officials on their days off and finding decathletes for Thompson to compete against — were not going to be wasted, those helping him resolved. When the wind was found to be blowing in the wrong direction, the 100 metres was lined up to start at the finish.

With Thompson gone, heads were down. However, the man himself wanted them to soldier on without him and who were they to argue? "Daley wants us to carry on," Trevor Storman said, as he prepared himself for the second event, the long jump. The fiddly had gone for Mark Permain: "It would have been great competing against him." Not that Thompson was the least successful of those on the start list. Terry Fidler got injured before the first event, and Wayne Slater, having said he would fill a vacancy, changed his mind.

Thompson's equanimity as he limped off the track was matched by the lady selling hamburgers at the steeplechase end. The burgers had been popular but, with Thompson gone, and his supporters gone too, what now? "I'll just get on with peeling onions for tomorrow," said the hamburger lady, who for some strange reason did not want to be named. The TSB Grand Prix will bring in 17,000 tonight. They had been expecting to see Thompson finish his decathlon, and the final event, the 1,500 metres, had been worked into the main programme. But now he will come back as one of the spectators. Perhaps he will find himself sitting next to Mrs Bennett and family.



Record round: Attentive audience for Curry on the 17th green yesterday

Curry hits first tour 60 but feels robbed by missed putt

By Mitchell Plant, golf correspondent

PAUL Curry yesterday created history on the King's course at Gleneagles when he became the first player to score 60 on British soil in a PGA European Tour event. Curry, 31, gathered seven birdies and two eagles in the second round of the Bell's Scottish Open and he shares the lead with the American, Mark Brooks (63), on 128, 12 under par.

Curry was somewhat subdued because he missed a putt of 20ft on the 18th green. If the ball had disappeared into the sanctuary of the hole then he would have become the first player in a European Tour event to score 59. "I'm pleased but I'm still disappointed," he said. "You don't get many chances to shoot 59, do you?"

Chip Beck scored 59 in the Las Vegas Invitational tournament last year and he and Al Geiberger (1977) are the only players to have broken 60 in official events on the US PGA Tour.

Curry has every reason to rue the poor drive he hit to the right at the 15th. He could only chop the ball forward from out of the deep rough with the result that he dropped his only shot of the round. "I think the possibility of shoot-

ing 59 sank in when I stood on that tee," Curry said. "I felt fairly nervous."

Even so, Curry is likely to be £16,000 the richer because Johnnie Walker offer a bonus, which rolls up from tournament to tournament, to any player who establishes a new course record. Not so long ago such a sum would have been loose change to Curry although that would appear no longer to be the case.

Curry has won little more than £200,000 during a 13-year career but his future in financial terms seemed secure

CURRY'S HOUND HOLE BY HOLE

King's course, Gleneagles: Par 70 (6,739 yards); Outward nine — 35 (3,327 yards); Inward nine — 35 (3,412 yards)

Hole	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Curry	3	4	4	2	3	4	3	4	3	3	4	3	2	5	4	4	4	30

1st: 3 wood, 8 iron to 128, 1 putt; 2nd: 3 wood, 8 iron, chip to 48, 1 putt; 3rd: 3 wood, 6 iron to 308, 2 putts; 4th: Driver, 4 wood short, chip to 111, 1 putt; 5th: 4 iron to 308, 1 putt; 6th: Driver, 3 iron to 101, 1 putt; 7th: Driver, 5 iron to 308, 2 putts; 8th: 6 iron to 208, 1 putt; 9th: 3 wood, wedge to 208, 2 putts; 10th: Driver, 5 iron to 128, 2 putts; 11th: 2 iron to 258, 2 putts; 12th: Driver, 5 iron to 208, 2 putts; 13th: 3 wood, 4 iron to 358, 1 putt; 14th: Driver to 358, 1 putt; 15th: Driver into rough, 8 iron, sand wedge to 208, 2 putts; 16th: 8 iron to 211, 1 putt; 17th: 3 wood, 7 iron over green, chip to 48, 1 putt; 18th: Driver, 6 iron to 208, 2 putts.

ICC decides to defer decision on World Cup hosts

By ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

THE next cricket World Cup is to be the biggest and most spectacular game has been seen. But who will stage it remained unclear yesterday, when England's confidence on the matter was shattered by determined opposition from South Africa.

The annual meeting of the International Cricket Council (ICC), which concluded at Lord's yesterday, decided that 12 teams will take part in the next tournament rather than the nine who participated in Australasia early this year.

The ICC, however, failed to decide on a host nation, which must judge their bids by December 1.

Only a week ago, Alan Smith, chief executive of the Test and County Cricket Board, said he expected no counterbids, specifically from South Africa, when England put their case for hosting the event for the fourth time, probably in 1995.

As one of the United Kingdom delegates at the ICC, Smith will presumably have been shaken by the scale and seriousness of South African competition.

It had enough of an effect on the meeting for a decision

to be deferred until January. England and South Africa must judge their bids by December 1.

England had widely been regarded as inevitable hosts, especially as they had drawn attention to an ICC resolution, mooted in 1990, that the competition should be staged on a rota basis. South Africa's argument is that they were not then part of the ICC and are now entitled to be at the head of the queue, having never held the World Cup in the past.

The conference plainly accepted that South Africa have a case. I understand a provi-

sional vote was taken among the member countries, with only a narrow majority favouring England as hosts. The meeting concluded that a more measured assessment of the two bids would be beneficial.

If the day-night games, which featured heavily in Australia's World Cup, are considered to be the way ahead, South Africa, with seven floodlit grounds, have an insuperable advantage.

They are also spending millions of pounds on ground improvements and, for all England's assurances that they can raise the team guar-

antees paid at the last World Cup, it is a safe bet that South Africa could raise them further. The factor that will work in England's favour is that South Africa can offer no reasonable guarantees about their political stability. For such a prestigious event, the ICC nations will think twice before committing themselves to a country where the present internal strife may last for years.

No formula has yet been devised for the next Cup and a return to two groups, rather than a round-robin system, is possible. The three extra nations will qualify from the

associate members' competition the previous year.

The shabby events at Old Trafford on Monday had an airing at the conference but, other than giving their full support to the role of the match referee, Conrad Huie, the ICC made no cogent statement.

Sir Colin Cowdrey, the chairman, is to study the referee's report before deciding if any further measures are necessary against Intikhab Alam, the Pakistan cricket manager.

Kent beat holders, page 32
Scoreboards, page 32

Essex's hopes rest with Foster

By JACK BAILEY

CHELMSFORD (Essex won toss; Essex beat Lancashire by one wicket)

WHEN bad light stopped play at 5.50pm yesterday, the match was, as they say, nicely poised. Replying to Lancashire's formidable 318 for eight, Essex had reached 179 for three from 23 overs.

They were ahead of Lancashire's score at a similar stage and although they had suffered the cruel blow of losing Mark Waugh in flight almost as bad as when it was later offered to the batsmen, they were, in the absence of DeFreitas's bowling, in with a fighting chance when play was suspended.

The half-hour's delay tilted the balance, however. From 179 for three, Essex slid to 220 for seven and only 11 overs remained for them to score the 91 needed to win. The cream was gone but Foster was still there.

All this without DeFreitas, Cocke-a-hoop when they took the field, Lancashire were quickly forced to review the position when DeFreitas, feeling his old groin injury, pulled up after delivering three balls.

He returned to the field, but has not bowled again, and Lancashire's makeshift permutations tried them sorely when Gooch and Stephenson were in command.

Until the tea interval, so often the great provider for fielding sides, Essex, in the shape of Gooch and Stephenson, had dealt with the Lancashire attack so well for 25 overs that, Fairbrother, playing his first match for a month, was hard-pressed to know which changes to ring.

Atherton had completed DeFreitas's first over, now, he returned to have Gooch, on 49, caught between Hegg's legs at the wicket. In the next over Stephenson holed out at extra cover.

The opening partnership was worth 123 and Stephenson, usually the senior partner, hit ten fours in an innings of 75 off 92 balls. Come the bad light, though, and the Essex prospect dimmed in every sense as Knight, Pridmore, Shahid and Pringle all left in the next ten overs.

Give or take the odd faltering slip, Lancashire's innings went as well as they could have hoped. "It was a measure of their success, after Gooch had asked them to bat, that their 318 left Essex to score more runs than any winning team had made in the second innings in the history of the competition."

They owed much to Fowler in the early stages. This has not been one of his best seasons but he carried the flag after Atherton had left in Pringle's first over, with the score on 35, and he saw Lancashire to a 127 from the first 29 overs with Spear.

"I've known him longer than Nick Faldo has," Curry said. "He changed a couple of things, basically with my address position, and put me back on track. I had been playing very poorly and I was apprehensive coming in here. I hope the 60 signals a change in the right direction."

Brooks, three times a winner on the US Tour, maintained his challenge for the £100,000 first prize with 63. He had six birdies and an eagle at the 18th where he hit a nine iron to four feet.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-38, 2-127, 3-188, 4-188, 5-248, 6-248, 7-248, 8-248, 9-248, 10-248, 11-248, 12-248, 13-248, 14-248, 15-248, 16-248, 17-248, 18-248, 19-248, 20-248, 21-248, 22-248, 23-248, 24-248, 25-248, 26-248, 27-248, 28-248, 29-248, 30-248.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-123, 2-133, 3-179, 4-183, 5-194, 6-203, 7-223, 8-223, 9-223, 10-223, 11-223, 12-223, 13-223, 14-223, 15-223, 16-223, 17-223, 18-223, 19-223, 20-223, 21-223, 22-223, 23-223, 24-223, 25-223, 26-223, 27-223, 28-223, 29-223, 30-223.

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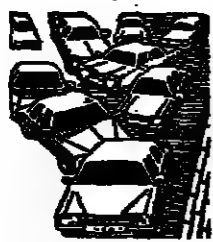
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MOTORING, p7

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FRANCE, p4
A dog's life in
France — and
properties of
the week

THE TIMES
PASSPORT TO
FRANCE

Watching with mother in mind

The chairman of the Broadcasting Standards Council is taking steps to protect the nation from violent male fantasies

When Lord Rees-Mogg took on the Broadcasting Standards Council he knew it would make him an object of ridicule like Mary Whitehouse before him. "Oh yes, the only way in which one's opponents hit back is by ridicule," he says equably. "They don't tend to defend slasher films."

Many are great and good, but few have the nerve and moral fibre to confront the liberal media establishment (and especially to censure Melvyn Bragg) as Lord Rees-Mogg has this week, achieving front page coverage, including a mammoth Daily Mirror headline "TV: TOO VIOLENT" for his council's annual report.

Fearlessly, from his great height, he has taken the part of women. Women, he points out, are the majority of the population; women bring up children and run the home; women are the victims of sexual violence but they are powerless in the face of male-dominated broadcasters who intrude their rape fantasies into the living-room.

When he travelled across the land with his colleagues — including two men of the cloth, two women, the Labour MP Alf Dubs, and Richard Baker — to canvass popular attitudes and throw up a code, Lord Rees-Mogg discovered that the television set, the omnipresent fixture in the corner (and increasingly in children's bedrooms) is so much part of family life that it offends against domestic principles it becomes threatening, "an alien presence in the home".

"Protecting children was the dominant theme. Mothers want to defend the home. They want the home to be a place of civilisation, a place of calm, and a place of security. And they associate this with certain uses of language inside the home, and regard breaches of that by broadcasters as intolerable because of undermining this idea of the secure and civilised home."

There was, he says, no significant difference between the views of young and old, nor between ethnic groups and others, nor between the different regions. "What emerged was a society with a widespread similarity of point of view."

"And what was fascinating was that society takes its standards basically from the mother. The father may be used as a vague threat — 'Wait till your father gets home' — but it is the mother who sets moral standards. The children are conscious of the mother being the major authority." Even in his own family, he feels that his wife has had the stronger influence on the moral character of their children. "We got a very clear picture of how men are regarded as perpetual boys to a surprising extent: the father is a sort of extra son that the mother has to put up with, who goes out and does things with other men in a rather childish way."

"Like the Garriok Club?"

"Absolutely. Very much. I am sure many wives feel relief when the man is safely tucked away in the Garriok."

In the hushed dining room of a small hotel off St James's, over a hearty English breakfast, Lord Rees-Mogg discusses the words we now refer to by their initial letters only. "There has been a change in the relative offence caused by the word," said Lord Rees-Mogg, "but not by the c word. The c word is regarded as highly offensive at any time of the day or night, when broadcast. The f word is acceptable in context later in the evening. People know their children are familiar with it, they use it in the playground and so on — but they are principally worried that it should not become a normal word. This teaches children the idea of context: that there are things they might say with their friends that they should not say to their parents."

The arbiter of national taste, 64 next week, lives in Rab Butler's old house in Smith Square, and spends weekends in a Palladian house near Bristol; he is a Balliol man, a former president of the Oxford Union, a pillar of the Roman

THE VALERIE GROVE INTERVIEW



Catholic church, the father of five (including the precocious Jacob, who was a financial wizard at 11, and Thomas, on whose birth he wrote his famous Lord Chesterfield-style open letter: now a Tory councillor). His mother, an American actress, read *Macbeth* with him in the nursery. At 11 he was already collecting 18th-century books, still his abiding passion: he owns Pickering and Chappin, the antiquarian bookshop in Pall Mall.

The boy William decided early that to be aged 40 would be better than being a child: that Aristotle was right, and to seem to be in a hurry was always undignified, even in the pouring rain; and that life would be more enjoyable once one had a small paunch and a gold watch-chain across it. It has made him a lampoonable figure.

Simon Raven, a contemporary at Charterhouse, painted in his autobiography *Shadows on the Grass* a portrait of a pompous, swartish, self-righteous young fogey, mocked by fellow Cartusians when he lispily reproved them about self-abuse. But Raven also wrote, "there was something about Mogg's discourse that I found pleasing... it was succinct, and whatever else it was, it was not trivial. It turned on serious issues... it was polymath. Not only, then, did he know a lot, not only could he tell you things, but he also had the fascination of

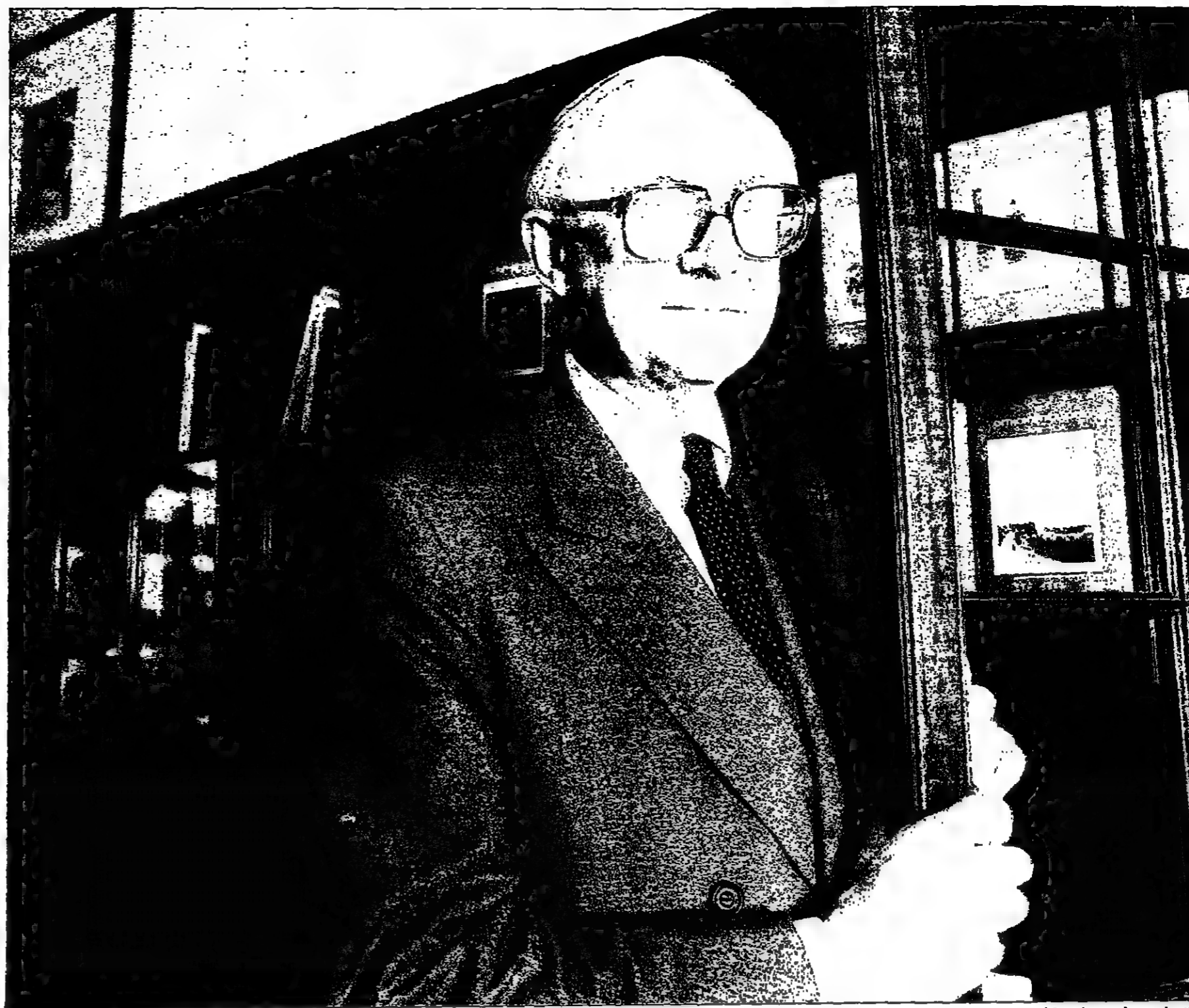
someone who had used his wits to better his lot and in general to lead a more interesting and comfortable life than the rest of us."

So he grew up, embodying the principles of the 18th-century Man of Reason. "As a preparation for my new post," he wrote, when first appointed to the BSC. "I have been re-reading the classic texts of liberal theory. John Locke's *Treatise on Civil Government* and John Stuart Mill's *On Liberty*."

It was true, he wrote, that neither Locke nor Mill had much experience of broadcasting; but both wrote of the duty of parents towards children. Mill said: "To bring a child into existence without a fair prospect of being able, not only to provide food for his body, but instruction and training for his mind, is a moral crime, both against the unfortunate offspring and against society..."

He is not a Mrs Whitehouse figure, swift to chide. He may look like the fastidious type whose glasses would steam up at the sight of *The Singing Detective's* heaving buttocks, but he is too intellectual, too carefully meditative, too aware of the changing times for that. It is ever "necessary" to show sexual activity on the screen? "It is all part of the process of stripping society of its taboos, which I think has been done recklessly, in that I don't think anyone who was doing it seriously asked themselves what the taboos were for, why they existed."

"Why is sex private? why is going to the loo private? do they serve some function? I suspect they do, or did. And one of the functions of the privacy of sex is to reinforce the



Lord Rees-Mogg: "Did you notice that for a long time every scene in which men conspired together, they chose to do it in urinals? Once you couldn't have done that"

incest taboo: if you de-privatise sex and make it a public thing, then I think you are more likely to get sexual abuse of children, because an initial safeguard curtain has been removed. So I have some sympathy with people who say that actually society was better protected at a time when sex was regarded as private."

"But I don't think you can reverse these things. Once a taboo has been torn down it can't be put back again. Did you notice that for a long time every scene in which men conspired together, they chose to do it in urinals? Once you couldn't have done that; and then it was shown that you could, so they did it all the time."

"There is a post-Freudian set of assumptions about how taboos arise in society, what they are for, how far breaking them down serves a healthy purpose: these state that repression is bad because the

encourages imitative violence, but any policeman can tell you tales of women found trussed and bound in exact replication of pornographic videos. "Undoubtedly pornography is associated with many sexual crimes; but then you find it is used by the defence as a palliative: 'He was corrupted by pornography,' says Lord Rees-Mogg with care. "The psychological network of causation can never be established with certainty, in this as in other areas."

But when asked, in an earlier interview, whether paternalism about moral values was not inappropriate in the late 20th century, he replied that pornography was indefensible, autistic, anti-women, destructive of children, having no place on television or in the cinema.

Lord Rees-Mogg is fond of the analogy from advertising: nobody questions that beer commercials sell beer, so it would have to be disproved rather than proved that

screening violence does not sell violence. "Hard-headed businessmen spend enormous amounts advertising their products, and presumably can measure the results. If it were true that communications had no effect, then they would all be a waste of time. Can it be said that portraying rape fantasies in films does not reinforce rape fantasies for people watching?"

This brings us to Mr Bragg's *A Time To Dance*, singled out by the BSC for censure. "A young girl, Bernadette Kennedy aged 14, is struggling violently against a man of about 55... The terrified girl thrashes to be free of him but he is immensely stronger and eventually he penetrates her. This causes him to let go of his grip on her mouth and she screams — a most terrible sound."

In his preface to the published screenplay of *A Time To Dance*, (the above is from the opening scene) Mr Bragg explained how, in the novel, "the rape is a late and reluctant confession. In fact, I underplayed it." But when translating his novel onto film, the character of Bernadette had to be given "parity" with the bank manager. "This meant starting with the rape," he declared.

Thus, speciously, he hoped to justify that headlong plunge into the rape scene at 9.05pm on a Sunday night. "Had the rape appeared later," Mr Bragg wrote, "it would have risked appearing as an excuse." Mr Bragg told *The Times* on Wednesday that he received letters from more than 300 women "identifying with her (Bernadette) and saying they appreciated the programme."

"I find it hard to believe," mused Lord Rees-Mogg, "that he had 300 letters saying 'jolly good rape scene'."

That scene had made him feel "very uncomfortable. I didn't like it. Then the complaints came in. 'How many?' 'Can't remember.' 'More than 300?' 'Oh no, less than that. Relatively few write in. But you never know how many people are represented by the number writing in.'"

He believes that things would be different, though I am not convinced about this, if there were more women in senior posts in television. He suggests an inquiry: how many women have the power to determine what goes on the box? how many have independent budget control? How many mothers achieve power in broadcasting? "Child-bearing has been a very great career handicap. We were aware at the BBC (when he was deputy chairman) that producer careers go through a tunnel from trainee through to executive stages, between 27 and 35, precisely at the ages women who have children have to be away. We found that men who have prejudices against senior jobs for women are quite common."

When he edited *The Times*, William Rees-Mogg introduced its first women's page, appointed female news and features editors and foreign correspondents: he was also the editor who gave us the first naked woman in *The Times* ("I didn't see any difficulty about it") in a Fisons advert on page 3 — a dubious gesture that owed more to the 1960s than any mature consideration of principle.

He did not, incidentally, vote at the Garriok on Monday night over the admission of women. "I simply felt that the majority were entitled to have their way, and I didn't have strong feelings about it," he said, adding that Lady Rees-Mogg is a member of the Reform Club.

The Broadcasting Standards Council has no power to censor. All it can do is receive complaints, and represent the interests of the audience. "This is the only reasonable response to the proliferation of channels," says Lord Rees-Mogg. "The audience's voice needs to be very firmly asserted. Subscribers to satellite channels get what they want by paying; their only complaint is the trailing of violent films on the ordinary channels. He finds the film culture of Hollywood "very disturbed, and immensely defensive about what it is doing."

"I have never had any doubt that all societies actually have to protect themselves from something," he says, "and they do so in various ways. For instance in the United States they are rightly very worried about racial prejudice and the political correctness thing really grows out of that."

Here, he notes, words of racial

prejudice have become as offensive as the most offensive of the sexual swear words. "Nigger, we found, is a word people cannot bring themselves to say. Derogatory terms for Jews are in the same category. But you can still call a Frenchman a Frog without anyone falling under the table, and the Australians can call us whingeing Poms."

I watched him handling an 18th-century book — a volume of *Cook's Journal*, 1775 — with loving care, discoursing on its binding, its printer, its original owner. What could be further from this man's emotional interests than the work of Brian de Palma or Michael Winner? When Mrs Thatcher appointed him, he thought the council was "quite likely to be ineffective". But he thinks, with one year of his chairmanship still to go, that they have "made something sensible" of it; even the Labour

Party, he says, no longer threatens to abolish it. So what has been achieved? "I think we've now got in effect a ruling that the ITC network is not to show slasher films [in which women are subjected to frenzied knife attacks]. I think that is a real step forward, because they have nothing to be said for them."

Quite. If the maternalistic woman wants *Dressed to Kill*, *Jagged Edge*, *He Knows You're Alone* or *Cape Fear* kept out of family reach, the paternalistic Lord Rees-Mogg — "Michael Winner once said I was the most dangerous man in Britain, which I thought was a compliment of sorts" — is our man.

TOMORROW

Win a champagne
weekend in France

'If you de-privatise sex and make it a public thing, then I think you are more likely to get sexual abuse of children'



repressed material tends to fester, and stripping taboos out will lead to an unrepressed and therefore healthier society. I think these propositions are unexamined and are actually extremely dubious. One could well make a counter-assumption that in order to make society work you need to have taboos and you need to have material repressed. What is worrying — again it's a power question — is that people with powerful access to the media impose the destruction of taboos on people who haven't been asked, and would probably prefer to maintain them."

In, and what becomes visually pervasive matters very much in a visual age. The question of a causal link between what is shown on television and the violence in society, particularly against women — a relationship cogently and chronically argued for the past 30 years by the critic Milton Shulman — is supposedly one of the great unanswerables. We are still told there is no reliably proven link. But women are all too aware that if a man armed with a knife stalks a terrified victim on the small screen, it doesn't actually help.

There may be no proof that it

PAULINE COLLINS



Shades

by SHARMAN MACDONALD

LIMITED SEASON

Directed by SIMON CALLOW

ALBURY THEATRE

From tonight at 8.00pm tomorrow
at 4.00pm and 8.00pm

Box Office 071 867 1115

TERRIBLE MOUTH: The Almeida Opera festival presents the world premiere of Nigel Osborne's new opera, *Compassion*, by BBC Radio 3. The work is a collaboration with playwright Howard Barker and is based on the life of Goya. David Pountney directs a cast that includes Celia Bayly, Omar Elmoti, Richard Van Allan and Elizabeth Lawrence. David Pountney produces the Almeida Ensemble. Almeida Theatre, Almeida Street, N1 017-359 4404, tonight, 8pm (further performances the next week).

AUSTRALIAN BALLET: The company performs the ever-popular ballet *Giselle*, the story of a gentle peasant girl driven to her grave by the betrayal of her aristocratic lover, and the British premiere of Stephen Baynes's *Catalyst*, set to music by Richard Strauss. Coliseum, St Martin's Lane, London WC2 017-835 3161, tonight, tomorrow, 7.30pm, mat tomorrow, 3.30pm.

NEW LONDON CHILDREN'S CHORUS: Soprano Mary Weigold and the Composers Ensemble join the choir in a programme of new music, and recently commissioned works by Howard Skempton, John Woolcott, Roger Symcox, Colin Hughes and Philip Cashman. Ronald Carr conducts. St James's, Piccadilly, London SW1 017-435 4350 or tickets available on the door from 7pm, tonight, 7.30pm.

THE LOVE OF THE NIGHTINGALE: The season of plays by leading female writers continues at the Lyric, tonight and tomorrow, final students from the London Academy of Performing Arts perform Timberlake Wertenbaker's play under the direction of Cécile Sailer. Next week Caryl Churchill's play.

WEEKEND EVENTS

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Kari Knight

Fen: Staged under the direction of Kay Adhead. Lyric Hammersmith, King Street, London W6 017-741 2311, tonight, tomorrow, 7.45pm, Mat tomorrow, 4.30pm.

HALLIE: James Judd conducts the final two concerts in this year's proms. Tonight the orchestra performs Elgar's *Serenade*, the *Dream of Gertrude*, with soloists Penelope Walker, Barry Banks and Philip Jell. Tomorrow's concert offers a mixed programme featuring soloist John Mackintosh in Elgar's *Trumpet Concerto* and Elgar's *Pomp and Circumstance March*. Free Trade Centre, Peter Street, Manchester 0161-634 1712, tonight, tomorrow, 7.30pm.

SOMEONE WHO'LL WATCH OVER ME: AUK McCowen, Hugh Quarshie and Stephen Rea play Ben's hostages in a new Frank McGuinness drama. Hampstead Theatre, Swiss Cottage, London NW2 017-722 9301, opens tonight, 7pm.

BURNING SPARK: The elder statesman of reggae heads a bill including Yami Bolo, Ish Skiba, Max Romeo and Faber Prou. Burning Spear is also playing with Simply Red at Wembley (see listing right) and at the Grand, Clapham on Monday and Tuesday. Redcat, Holloway Road, London N7 017-700 2421, tonight, 10pm-Sat, 11pm.

SIMPLY RED: Another fine megadates from the soul-pop smoothies with support from The Brand New Heavies, Des'ree and Burning Spear. Wembley Stadium, Wembley, Middlesex 0181-900 1234, tomorrow, Sun, 7.30pm.

JAMES BROWN: No new music is forthcoming since last year's *Love Over* album, but Soul Brother Number One has a monumental back catalogue to draw upon. He is supported by jazz pianist Ronny Jordan and soul reggae artist Don E. On Sunday Gary Glitter heads a fine line-up of British jazz players performing alongside musicians from the Caribbean Music Village. Las Vegas Park Shopping Centre, Waltham Abbey 017-373 1066, tomorrow, gates open 4pm; on stage 7pm. Sun, gates open 2pm, on stage 7pm.

BRASURE: The boys who brought us "Blue Suede Shoes" and "On Someones" are taking the charts with their album *EP*. They bring their mix of electronic pop and gritty showbiz to the capital for a 15-date run. Hammersmith Odeon, London W6 017-748 0811, tomorrow-Fri.

KENWOOD OPEN-ARM CONCERT: The Philharmonia plays music by French and German composers under conductor Jean-Benoît Suvigny. The programme comprises Berlioz's *Overture*, The *Corsaire*, Beethoven's *Piano Concerto No 4 in G major*, Op 58, Weber's *Overture*, Tchaikovsky and Saint-Saëns's *Organ Symphony* with soloist Leslie Pearson. Hammersmith Odeon, London W6 017-748 0811, tomorrow, 7.30pm.

THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London

■ Home rule, returns only
■ House seats available
■ Seats at all prices

POND LIFE: Touching performance by a young cast in Richard Crampton's comedy of teenagers angling for cash and love. Bush, Shepherd's Bush Green, W12 017-432 2232, Mon-Sat, 8pm 10.50mins. Final week.

THE INCUBATING OFFICER: Nicholas Hytner's good-natured production, rather too good to be true to life's darker content. National (Olivier), South Bank, SE1 017-932 2252, tonight, tomorrow, 7.15pm, mat tomorrow, 2pm 10.50mins.

THE RISE AND FALL OF LITTLE VOICE: Terrific performance by Alison Steadman as the raucous slattern in Jim Cartwright's play about dreams, myths and horrible mothers. National (Olivier), South Bank, SE1 017-932 2252, tonight, tomorrow, 7.15pm, mat tomorrow, 2pm 10.50mins.

THE FLUMBER: C.P. Taylor's warmhearted version of Samuel Beckett's comedy about a man who is a musical instrument. Greenleaf, Croydon Hill, SE10 017-888 7753, Mon-Sat, 7.45pm, mat Sat, 2.30pm, 10.50mins.

SIX DEGREES OF SEPARATION: David Hare's play about the lives of a black cab driver in John Guare's fine play on human inter-dependence. Royal Court, St John's Square, SW1 017-730 1745, Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat Sat, 2.30pm, 10.50mins. Closes August 8.

A SUE OF THE TONGUE: A wretched John Malkovich in a lightweight comedy. Hughes drama that seems to equalate East-European disaffection with getting girls. Shaftesbury, Shaftesbury Avenue, WC2 017-379 5393, Mon-Thurs, 8pm, Fri, 6pm and 8pm, Sat, 4.30pm and 8.30pm, 10.50mins.

THE SOUND OF MUSIC: Pure, naive, sweetly-clean lots and drops of golden age: a sweet holiday from the real world. With Liz Robertson and Christopher Clancy. Sadler's Wells, Rosebery Avenue, EC1 017-278 8916, Tue-Sat, 7.30pm, Sun, 2.30pm, 10.50mins.

STRAIGHT AND NARROW: Nicholas Lyndhurst, Neil Patrick Harris and a cast of young actors tell about a young man's search for a job. Aldwych, Aldwych WC2 017-836 6441, Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat Wed, 3pm, Sat, 2.30pm, 10.50mins.

UNA POCOOK: Samuel Beckett's play about a man who is a musical instrument. Greenleaf, Croydon Hill, SE10 017-888 7753, Mon-Sat, 7.45pm, mat Sat, 2.30pm, 10.50mins.

A WOMAN OF NO IMPORTANCE: Philip Prowse's stylish RSC production, in London after a triumph tour. Victoria Palace 017-434 1317, Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat Sat, 2.30pm, 10.50mins.

LONG RUNNERS: A musical about the lives of a black cab driver in John Guare's fine play on human inter-dependence. Royal Court, St John's Square, SW1 017-730 1745, Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat Sat, 2.30pm, 10.50mins. Closes August 8.

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King Lear in New York Chichester

MELVYN BRAGG is a biographer of Richard Burton, has interviewed his theatrical kin and kin on television, and must know a thing or two about hard-drinking actors who have squandered their genius in Hollywood instead of fulfilling it on the classical stage. Why, then, is his first play so profoundly implausible, involving as it does an over-age roaring boy and star of the silver screen who makes a Shakespearean comeback in an "off-off-off-Broadway" theatre?

For a start, the plot seems comically contrived. One by one the problems clank and clunk onstage, each threatening to ruin the big performance John Stride's Robert is giving in only a day's time. First, he has the bottle and blocks on his lines. Then in mocha Maria Miles as his crack-addict daughter to berate him for having left her mother, his first wife. Next comes a double whammy in the form of Jenny Seagrove, playing his second wife and agent. The personal part of her is vexed at some unspecified infidelity of his and the professional part determined he should renounce Lear for a major movie role. Never mind that before long the Hollywood moguls are bathetically revealed not to mind off-Broadway Shakespeare at all. For Bragg, the need to pile up the pressure on his hero presumably justifies the laying of false dramatic trails.

There is plenty more pressure to come, too. Robert has only to settle back in his suite when in barges Kate O'Mara's celebrity talk-show hostess with her camera-crazed, eager and, inexplicably, able to ruin his entire career with the androide footage they proceed to shoot. He has only to sit in his dressing room for Rosalind Bailey to materialise, a first wife full of rancour and recriminations.

By now nobody in the Chichester audience could have been surprised if



Piling on the pressure: John Stride, Jenny Seagrove, Kate O'Mara in *King Lear* in New York

the New York fire brigade had come to hose down Robert while he was dressing, or Mayor Dinkins parachuted onto his head as he made his first entrance. Enough, then, to report that he is roaming the Manhattan slums, reacting in horror to news of a murder in the family, and carrying his daughter Cordelia-like to hospital while the ushers are showing people to their seats. *King Lear* never had a day like it.

That is, of course, the comparison we are not too subtly asked to make. The first act ends with thunder, lightning, and Stride telling Richard Warwick, who plays his dim-witted son: "Oh, fool, I shall go mad." The second offers the modern Lear regenerate: "I've been such a fool, all the luck I've had and I

took too little care of this, my daughter — all it needed was a little patience." The allusion may be meant to be witty, but in Patrick Garland's production it comes across as solemn and, given Bragg's intelligence and sophistication, oddly gauche.

Stride is a splendidly forceful actor, who can shout, growl and rage as majestically as anybody; but what can he do? The parallel with Lear has the effect of making his woe seem patry. Equally unsurprisingly, he has trouble bringing to life a character defined more by what others say of him and he says of himself (those passionate loves and abject gulps) than by what he does and is. Then there is the dialogue, which seems less and less moored to

really the longer the play goes on. Some lines fall like verbal medicine balls. "I needed to be born again after living with you," declares Wife One. "Living with you was like living in a zoo without bars." But nothing matches the burlesque swagger of the parody Manhattanese aggressively spilling from beneath O'Mara's absurdly languid half. Even in New York, even in showbiz, do people really say: "Power is the big hit, right? Love is the nursery slopes" or for the Big Apple itself: "What's happening can frighten even me, and I live on it. I love it. I ride it, it's my turf, my turf?" Well, I've lived near Times Square and I can tell you no.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

ROCK

With a little help from his friends

Ringo Starr
Hammersmith Odeon

FOR the entire generation who have grown up celebrating him as the voice behind Thomas the Tank Engine, first a gentle reminder that Ringo Starr used to be in a group. And with so many column inches, and feet of documentary film footage, having been devoted to *Sergeant Pepper's* silver anniversary and Paul McCartney's fiftieth birthday recently, even the very young must realise that group was the Beatles.

Too much knowledge is a dangerous thing, however, and those of tender years should be content with the fact that Starr's new group is comprised largely of middle-aged men with abundant hair, thin legs and improbable tight trousers. It is only the more mature reader who will care to note that among them are the venerable presences of Todd Rundgren, Joe Walsh, Nils Lofgren and Dave Edmunds. There are others, too, with less

incisive and emotional songwriters in the arm-waving chorus to "Yellow Submarine". Was it destined to please just?

Yet there was a vastly enjoyable momentum to the whole rather improbable exercise. Sometimes Ringo hid behind his drum kit for several songs at a time. At others, a Jay Gatsby figure at his own party, he would leave the stage completely. Then, his trademark sardonic leer intact, he would re-emerge like a karaoke junkie to seize the mike for "Photograph", "You're Sixteen" or some other creaky old favourite.

He got a birthday cake ("52 today"), he got a hero's reception, and the crowd took over for him on the all too sizable "With a Little Help from My Friends". He even looked as if he was enjoying himself, too.

ALAN JACKSON

TELEVISION REVIEW

Freedom to queue

Yorkshire TV producer Kevin Sim, turned their cameras on the so-called "ordinary people" as they struggled to get through this past winter, the harshest since the Siege of Leningrad when starvation killed hundreds of thousands.

Nothing is easy 50 years later. The women queue endlessly for bread, the 15 families crammed into a single flat queue for the toilet ("queues at the shops, queues at home, queues everywhere," complains one woman). The recent political upheaval may have brought them freedom; it has not brought them choice.

Maria Gregorianna, 78, lived through Stalin's purges; today she is terrified of burglars. Aleksiev Sergei

Alexandrovich has just killed his Cossack neighbour, driven to violence — he claims — by the pressure of overcrowding in their domestic arrangements; a Cossack leader exhorts fellow Cossacks to avenge the victim's death, one of about 340 murders in St Petersburg last year.

Natalia Aleksyeyevna seeks to divorce her drunkard husband, Sacha runs a lucrative business finding Western husbands for Russian women desperately trying to escape the hardships of home. Several thousand homeless children live in the city's streets and basements, while Valentina and Father Gennady argue over how best to help a lucky few.

This kind of documentary veritas has

DEBRA CRAINE

ENTERTAINMENTS

ART GALLERIES

LEVERFARRE GALLERY
30 Brunel St, W1 017-493 2107.
RECENT WORKS BY SETSUO
18 June - 10 July, Mon-Fri 10.50.

CINEMAS

CURZON MAYFAIR Curzon St.
Telephone Bookings 01 857 1111, no box fees Mon-Sat 9am-9pm. Exclusive presentation in 3D. *THE LONG DAY CLOSING* (1957) A film by Terence Davis. Proprietary 1.40, 2.00, 2.50, 3.00, 3.50.

CURZON WEST END Shaftesbury Ave. W1 017-430 4000.
Re-release in 3D. *THE LONG DAY CLOSING* (1957) A film by Terence Davis. Proprietary 1.40, 2.00, 2.50, 3.00, 3.50.

CONCERTS

CITY OF LONDON FESTIVAL
5-22 July 1992. TODAY:
1.00pm. St Mary Woolchurch.
Prose and Poetry Series.
Melton Brown, 3.00pm. St Andrew's, Holborn.
Cello and Violin. Choir of the Chapel Royal, St James's Palace.
Box Office 017-430 4280.

OPERA & BALLET

COLISEUM 017-836 3161/240.
02567/1100000/11000/11000.
02567/11000/11000/11000.

AUSTRALIAN BALLET
Tonight 8.30, 7.30.
Tomorrow 3.30, 7.30.
Olivier Theatre, Covent Garden.
Box Office 017-430 4280.

THEATRES

ADRIAN 017-436 7011 CC 017-379 4444/7753.
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Tomorrow 3.30, 7.30.
Box Office 017-430 4280.

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LIFE & TIMES FRIDAY JULY 10 1992

ARTS 3

Dispatches from his particular hell

Richard Cork admires an exhibition of paintings by Wyndham Lewis that offers vivid evidence of the artist's sustained involvement with the theme of war

During the uneasy months leading up to the outbreak of the first world war, much of the avant-garde art produced in London was powered by an urge to attack and destroy. Wyndham Lewis, editor of the Vorticist movement's aggressively titled *Blast* magazine, was the most keenly prepared to place this belated aggression at the heart of his work. In an extraordinary article written to announce the publication of *Blast* in July 1914, he cried: "We must kill John Bull with art!"

Lewis's fury was directed primarily at all those forces in British culture — philistinism, nostalgia, an unwillingness to engage in radical transformation — which he considered inimical to the growth of a vital new art. Images and words were his weapons, and none of the Vorticists looked forward to a real war with the alarming enthusiasm displayed by Marinetti in Italy. All the same, their boisterous and often volcanic behaviour in the first half of 1914 anticipated the war fever which gripped the entire country once hostilities against Germany were declared.

Although Lewis was bent on aesthetic revolution rather than a real military offensive, he found himself painting images which heralded political events in Europe with chilling accuracy. The most monumental was a tall canvas called *Plan of War*, where militant blocks of diagonally thrusting form are enclosed in rigid outlines. The diagrammatic structures assume an awesome authority as they assemble on the picture-surface, preparing for battle.

The painting has long been lost, but a full-size photograph of it is displayed in the Imperial War Museum's excellent *Wyndham Lewis: Art and War* survey. And the rest of the show consists of original works, all testifying to Lewis's sustained involvement with a theme that made him lament, in 1937, that "with me war and art have been mixed up from the start... I wish I could get away from war".

In the summer of 1914 he had little choice. Images of implacable physical engagement occupied his mind, and a drawing called *Combat No 2* relies on a steely command of line to give three clusters of combatants a dehumanised conviction. The manifesto in *Blast* described the Vorticist artists as "Primitive Mercenaries in the Modern World", and *Combat No 2* presents the sinister reality of a struggle to the death. Each pair of soldiers appears to have fused in an eerie dance, and the only resolution of their mechanistic writhings lies in a killing.

After volunteering as a gunner in

the Royal Artillery in 1916, Lewis regarded his training in England with sardonic humour. Even when he was moved to the firing line in France the following year, his levity continued. "Whizzing, banging, swishing and thudding completely surrounded me," he reported to his friend Ezra Pound, "and I almost jog up and down on my camp bed as though I were riding in a country wagon or a dilapidated taxi." A few days later, though, Lewis undertook a trip through a "never-ending and empty" terrain which prompted a more sombre mood. "This is the bad tract," he wrote, "the narrow and terrible wilderness."

The nearest he came to depicting this unnerving locale, in the impressive sequence of drawings dating from 1918, is *Officer and Signaller*. Led by a figure who seems unaffected by injuries, the soldiers struggle through a lunar landscape pitted with craters and devoid of growth. A shell erupts nearby, but there is no doubt that the men will continue their walk despite the danger, and their stoicism reflects Lewis's own attitude towards the likelihood of death.

The awakening of his interest in the reality of the Front Line meant that he had less difficulty adopting a more figurative idiom than some of his fellow Vorticists. While retaining the harsh formal discipline of his pre-war work, Lewis's drawings now convey a great deal of representational information about the soldiers and their surroundings. He was lucky, in this respect, to find himself inhabiting such a denuded place. For Lewis declared later that "those miles of hideous desert" had presented him "with a subject-matter so consonant with the austerity of that 'abstract' vision I had developed, that it was an easy transition".

Although Lewis encountered plenty of corpses, he did not include them in his war images. Apart from a few drawings of heavy shelling, like the dark green eruptions punctuating *Great War Drawing No 2*, he also refrained from depicting the battle itself. Most of his 1918 work concentrated on battery positions, where figures are seen shell-humping, preparing for an attack, pulling in a siege battery or lighting cigarettes as they wait for a barrage to begin. A mysterious stillness prevails in many of these terse, dispassionate studies, far removed from the protesting anger of Paul Nash's finest war pictures.

Lewis arrived at an unearthly calm in the immense painting he produced as an official commission for the Canadian government. He chose to concentrate, in *A Canadian*



Unearthly calm: *A Canadian Gun Pit*, 1918, a huge work produced by Lewis as an official commission for the Canadian government

Gun Pit, on the business of laying a heavy gun. The task absorbs the energies of the two men turning the wheel and adjusting the sights. Battle has yet to commence, and the third figure standing by the gun with hands in pockets seems uncertain of his function. So do the men who preside over the ranks of shells resting on sturdy wooden planks. The mask-like rigidity of their faces is disturbingly severe.

Perhaps Lewis intended them to play the role of a tragic chorus, grimly meditating on the destructive power which would be unleashed once these immense shells were hurled towards the enemy lines. He certainly emphasised the missiles' weight by giving foreground prominence to the muscular efforts of one of the West Indians attached to Lewis's battery as lifters of shells. His black arms and pale pink shirt make him the most unexpected, arresting figure in the painting.

Despite the powerful air of dehumanised oppression, *A Canadian Gun Pit* seems laborious

compared with the large painting Lewis produced for the British government in 1919. Asked to fill a canvas the size of Uccello's San Romano battle picture in the National Gallery, he devoted most of the space to the devastation caused by heavy bombardment.

In *A Battery Shelled* Lewis draws on his plentiful experience of enemy attack, and shows how much he wondered at his ability to escape harm. The earth has been pounded into an acid-green lunar landscape, furrowed with maze-like patterns of mud. The rusty orange figures look cautious, as they twist themselves into tortuous positions and search the pummeled ground. Their angular, metallic bodies are more mechanistic than their counterparts in Lewis's Canadian canvas, and in that respect *A Battery Shelled* is closer to earlier war images such as the 1914 *Combat* drawings.

Throughout this principal area of the painting an ingenious style,

poised halfway between Vorticism and the more representational idiom expected by his official patrons, is incisively sustained. The splintered forms zigzagging their way through the chilled grey-white sky are difficult to distinguish from the equally shattered trunks of trees. Machine-age weapons and natural growths have both suffered catastrophic damage. But in the distance, all this churned and fragmented complexity leads on to a silent, bleached terrain, ominously prophetic of the "winter" world described by analysis of nuclear annihilation today.

Although this portion of the canvas remains curiously faithful to the landscape Lewis described in 1917 as "our particular hell", he juxtaposed it with three bulky figures who contemplate the scene. They are handled in a far more representational manner, and at least two of them were apparently intended as portraits. The stylistic clash between the different parts of the painting is so incongruous that it

must have been quite deliberate. Lewis presumably wanted the three elegiac figures to embody his own realisation that "the war was a sleep, deep and animal, in which I was visited by images of an order very new to me. Upon waking I found an altered world: and I had changed, too, very much".

By making the trio of soldiers stand apart from the rest of the scene, both physically and in stylistic terms, Lewis may have wanted them to signify his own post-war mood — newly awakened from this "sleep" and questioning the viability of the more "geometrical" idiom employed in the shell-wracked landscape. All three men look as if they might be standing outside the canvas altogether. Even as these grave figures ruminate over the tragedy they endured, Lewis removes them from a way of seeing which now belongs to a past beyond recovery.

Wyndham Lewis: Art and War is at the Imperial War Museum (071-416 5000) until October 11

GALLERIES: CRITIC'S CHOICE

● **FRED ZINNEMANN:** Although his first directorial job was working with the great American photographer Paul Strand on his film *The Wave*, film-maker Fred Zinnemann's own photography has been kept firmly under a bushel. In 1989, however, he donated his personal collection to the V&A, and this revealing display whets the appetite to know more. The pictures here were shot in New York City in 1932-33: the Depression and its human results are the subject of these pictures, as often chronicling New Yorkers' cheery resilience as their occasional despair.

Victoria and Albert Museum, Cromwell Road, SW7 (071-938 8500). Mon-Sat, 10am-5.50pm, Sun, 2.30-5.50, until August 23.

● **THE NEW DESIGNERS:** Around this time of year, as all the art schools put on their graduation shows, we hear a lot about the new painters and sculptors banging on the doors of the art establishment. But there are probably just as many graduating designers being unleashed on industry or setting up their own craft businesses. This four-day fair brings together more than 1000 graduates from more than 50 design colleges, and includes new glass, ceramics, metalwork, tableware, graphics, lighting, animation. Useful for the general public as well as for professionals.

Business Design Centre, 52 Upper Street, Islington, London N1 (071-350 3535). Today, tomorrow, 10am-6pm, Sun, 10am-4pm.

● **TENNYSON:** Alfred, Lord Tennyson was a Lincolnshire man, writing many dialect poems to prove it. It is suitable, therefore, that the principal marking of the centenary of his death should be in Lincoln. It covers the grandest of his social contacts, his friendship with Queen Victoria, through correspondence from the Royal Archives in Windsor, and contains much documentary material about his relations with great and famous contemporaries. But the visual side is not forgotten. Julia Margaret Cameron, a close friend of the poet, is most prominently featured among the photographers, with portraits of him and illustrations of his works. The illustrations of Edward Lear, another old friend, show to advantage, and there are numerous paintings inspired by Tennyson from the Pre-Raphaelites and other artists of the period.

Usher Gallery, Lindum Road, Lincoln (0532 27980). Mon-Sat, 10am-5.30pm, Sun, 2.30-5pm, until Sept 12.

JOHN RUSSELL TAYLOR

GALLERIES: John Russell Taylor on the enigmatic art of the young painter Stephen Conroy

Myths made in the grand manner

The trouble with young artists who arrive with a bang is not so much that they end immediately with a whimper as that if the initial bang is big enough they are likely to go on trying to duplicate their early success with inexorably reducing effect. There are enough artists still around from the "Generation of '64" to prove the point. And it seems in several cases to be overtaking the "New Image" painters from Glasgow who took the art world by storm in 1985.

Stephen Conroy is younger — still only 28 — and arrived a bit later, in the "Vigorous Imagination" show of 1987. But he still has the problem of early success to contend with. Like the rest, he is strongly figurative and has his own brand of private imagery and personal myth.

Moreover, owing to a well-publicised dispute with his first dealers, his work was unseizable for a couple of crucial years, building up rarity value. Consequently, his first one-man show with Marlborough in 1989 was an instant sell-out, with a waiting list for anything else he might choose to paint.

This is an agreeable situation for a new painter, but also nerve-racking. Can he answer expectations without repetition? Can he develop without disappointing? Single works by Conroy shown at Marlborough in the last three years have suggested cause for concern. But now that he is given the full treatment with simultaneous one-man shows of his paintings at the main gallery and of prints and drawings at



A strong feeling of something in reserve: Stephen Conroy's *The Singer* (1991)

Marlborough Graphics, the fears are completely dispelled. That is, of course, for those who have liked his work. As is the case with all highly idiosyncratic painters, there are some who find much to criticise. For them Conroy is just a skilful pasticheur, painting in a manner — Old Master or Modern British, it makes little difference — that nobody has a right to employ in the 1990s. Somehow the fact that he does it with such brilliance

only makes matters worse. However, the point of any style is that it is a means to an end, a vehicle for the artist's ideas. And it so happens that painting in the style of, say, William Nicholson or early Glyn Philpot suits Conroy's ideas perfectly.

It is the ideas that are modern and bizarre. Some of his paintings, like the triptych *Alchemy*, come out in the open with their mystery; problem pictures in the classic fashion, they ask their audience to interrogate them. But the mystery of the other works is more potent. Many of them appear to be straightforward portraits of sitters known or unknown. But there is always a strong feeling of something in reserve, behind what is seen there is clearly something unseen. Some curious, perhaps menacing atmosphere envelops these characters coolly placed in a neutral space. One or two go further, like

the *Unfamiliar Environment* series. In the biggest, a formally dressed man seems to be prey to sudden weightlessness, as though in the Zone of Coccau's *Orpheus*. In others the sense of disturbance is unmistakable, though we probably have to wait for the final works for which these appear to be studies to discover precisely what baleful effect the environment is having on the two thieves or the man who may (or may not) be drowning.

Apparently this painting show, too, was virtually sold out before it opened. Consequently the prints and drawings offer a good second resort for would-be purchasers. Though many of the etchings and some of the drawings relate very directly to the recent paintings, they are not merely chips from the workbench. Conroy, like his turn-of-the-century forebears, also has a special feeling for the etching as an art form, and if it is to see a significant revival this decade, he will obviously be in the forefront there too.

Stephen Conroy: Recent Paintings, Marlborough Fine Art, 6 Albemarle Street, London W1 (071-629 5161), Mon-Fri 10am to 5.30pm, Saturday 10am to 12.30pm, until July 25. Stephen Conroy: Prints and Drawings, Marlborough Graphics, 42 Dover Street, London W1 (071-495 2642), Mon-Fri 10am to 5pm, Saturday 10am to 2pm, until July 25.

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ROCK: Alan Jackson on Glenn Frey at the Town and Country

Some 20 years after The Eagles hit their country-rock stride and a full decade after their eventual demise, only two band members sustain a solo reputation. While Don Henley's work cultivates a rather self-conscious gravitas, Glenn Frey's four albums have revelled in the relaxed song structures and sentiments of mainstream Californian pop and rock. At best, this lends a pleasing simplicity to his songs, many of them written in collaboration with West Coast veteran Jack Tempchin. At worst, it has led him to embrace the trivial and the banal.

With a loyal crowd turning out at the Town and Country club to cheer him through his first solo British performance, Frey paraded both extremes with equal enthusiasm. Happily, the voice remains

Eagle's safe landing

marvellously intact and "The One You Love", a song only marginally more distinguished than many of the other soft rock ballads which flourished on the American charts in the early 1980s, benefited greatly from a staid understated delivery. The dismal "Sexy Girl" proved completely beyond rescue, however.

Frey forsook Los Angeles for Aspen recently and a new LP, *Strange Weather*, finds him

reflecting in new-found tranquility on a not unfamiliar array of social, political and environmental issues. Ironically, the excellence of his seven-piece band, augmented here by four horn players and his own highly enjoyable guitar playing, only exposed the weakness of tracks such as "Love in the 21st Century" or "Brave New World", both well intentioned, but lyrically and musically predictable.

It seems churlish to report that Frey's oldest work remains his best. Yet the momentum and grace that he and his players brought to such familiar songs as "Peaceful Easy Feeling", "New Kid in Town" and "Lynyrd Eyes" suggested that the current revival of interest in the once terminally-unhip Eagles is not undeserved.

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FIRST CALL

Grand jour de fête

Towns come alive to celebrate the fall of the Paris Bastille

The idea of dancing in the streets to celebrate *liberté, égalité et fraternité* remains dear to French hearts, and it is still possible to find at least one *bal populaire* in most towns and villages. Undoubtedly the most popular and best known of these are the *bals de pompiers*, a tradition stretching back to the first impromptu dance held in a Montmartre fire station in 1937.

Organised by local firemen, these free dances are open to everyone and usually feature a local band playing accordion music. Check for details with the local fire station. Many *bals* are also held on the night of the 13th.

In most towns the council may also organise its own *bal populaire*, the most famous being the dance given by the *Mairie de Paris* in the Place de la Bastille. This year the *bal* will be held on Monday, from 9.30pm to 1.30am.

There is no better time to see military pageantry than during the July 14 parade along the Champs Elysées from the Arc de Triomphe to the Place de la Concorde. Starting at 9.30am, 3,800 of France's crack troops and 400 motorised vehicles will take part.

This year is the bicentenary of "The Marseillaise", and the parade will culminate in a rendition by the 460-strong French army choir.

Every town in France has its



Shining symbol: the Eiffel Tower comes to light

own miniature version of the *grand défilé militaire*. Check with local town halls or tourist offices for information on dates and times.

The evening of the 14th is reserved for the annual fireworks display. In Paris, it will start at 10.30pm at the Palais de Chaillot and the Jardins de Trocadero. Eight of Europe's leading artists of *la pyrotechnie* have created a 40-minute programme.

Here is a guide to some of the Bastille day events around France this summer:

Avignon: July 14, 2.30pm, parachute display, Pont St Bénézet; 5pm, military parade, Cour Kennedy; 10.30pm, fireworks, Pont St Bénézet; 11pm, two *bals populaires*, Place d'Armes and Place Crillon. Details: 33 90 80 80 08.

Bordeaux: July 13, 8.45pm, military parade, Place des Quenelles, followed by fireworks display, July 14, 10pm, *bal populaire*, Place la Cornette. Further details: 56 90 91 60.

Lyon: July 13, 6pm, military parade, Place Maréchal Lyautey; 9pm, *bal populaire*, Avenue Jean Mermaz; July 14, 9pm, free performance of two modern ballets by Lyon opera ballet at Théâtre Romain de Fourvière; 10.45, fireworks, Colline de Fourvière; 10.15, *bal populaire*, Quai St Antoine. Further details: 78 42 25 75.

Marseille: July 14, 9am, military parade, Quai des Belges; 5.30pm, procession on La Canebière; 10.15pm, fireworks, Vieux Port. Further details: 91 54 91 11.

Münster (20km west of Strasbourg): July 13, 10pm, *défilé de sensations*. 600 people in revolutionary costume will parade through the town centre; 11pm, fireworks, Place de la Foire. *bal populaire*. Further details: 88 38 31 98.

Rouen: July 13, 9.30pm, disco, Quai Bas Jean Moulin; 11pm, fireworks, Pont Cornette; 11.30pm, disco resumes until 1.30am; July 14, 10.45am, military parade Boulevard Gambetta; 3pm, puppet show, Square Verdier. Further details: 35 08 69 00.

Toulouse: July 13, opening ceremony, 9pm, and *bals populaires*, 9.30pm, Place de la Capitale; July 14, 10.30am, military parade, Boulevard Carnot; 3pm, free opera Rêve de Vienne, at the Théâtre de la Capitole; 9.30pm, *bal populaire*, Place de la Capitale; 10pm, fireworks, Prairie des Filles. Further details: 61 62 76 21.

Tours: July 14, 10am, troop review and military parade, Place Jean-Jaures; 3.30pm, concert (dancing possible), Jardin de Préfendus; 11pm, fireworks, Lac de la Bergeronnerie. Further details: 47 65 47.

● If dialling from the UK, use the code 010 33.

SUSAN BELL

The French, indulgent to a fault, are now the great dog-lovers. David Sinclair reports



A dog's life: for the French family dog life has never been better. Most hotels quote a rate for pets and many restaurants provide a bowl of water

A nation barking up the right tree

THE TIMES
PASSPORT TO
FRANCE

THE British, as everybody knows, like to present themselves as a nation of dog-lovers, but these days, frankly, they cannot cook a leg at their neighbours in France. For the

French, the dog continues to enjoy for the most part the status that Britain used to accord it when I was a boy, a position since sharply downgraded as a result of what appears to be a new-found obsession with hygiene.

Whereas in Britain it is becoming increasingly difficult, for instance, to find hotels that accept dogs, French establishments, required to display the tariff in every room, almost always include a rate for pets. Restaurants, all but perhaps the most pretentious, not only accept dogs readily but often positively encourage them by providing bowls of water, if not food.

One homely *auberge* I know welcomes man's best friend with a mat to put under the nether regions on the cool tiled floor. In another place I have seen a dog sitting at table with a paper napkin in front of it to receive tasty morsels from adoring owners' plates.

Perhaps the most extreme example was provided by a middle-aged couple who passed an entire meal in taking turns to feed and converse with the poodle that sat between them, without addressing a word to each other.

In recent years, food shops have made a determined effort to keep dogs out, but even so it is not uncommon to find a supermarket trolley containing a

peke, a dachshund or a Yorkshire terrier in the little wire seat normally occupied by children. No doubt conscientious owners like their pets to make their own choices from the enormous range of gourmet dog food on display in such places. The people take eating very seriously. Why not their dogs?

There is, moreover, little chance of the average Frenchman paying any

more attention to a notice saying, "No Dogs", than he will to signs reading, "No Smoking" or "No Entry". In France, such notices are merely part of the scenery, and one of the first things you learn when you come to live here is that obeying them is a matter of personal choice. As for the dog at home, the rule seems to be that the smaller the living space, the larger the breed or the greater the numbers.

A quick census of the narrow, medieval rue d'En Cipria behind my house revealed in one small dwelling a Bichon, with some of the appearance of a Pyrenean bear and the dimensions of a Shetland pony; in another there were two hunting terriers in a third, a collection of mongrels; in a fourth at least, four shih-tzus; and elsewhere alsatians, labradors and an assortment of others of varying sizes.

My neighbours in the little pink house across the Place Anatole France (Homme de Lettres) have for years kept a medium-sized mongrel that spends its days sunbathing on their balcony, occasionally leaping up and sticking its head through the balustrade to bark furiously at passers-by it does not recognise. Since last week it has had a companion, which appears to be an English setter puppy and is quickly learning when a bit of balcony barking is called for. It must not be thought, however, that in their desire to keep dogs the French abandon that discriminatory sense for which they are famous. For example, one man I know, a retired *agriculteur* not noted for great

wealth, went to the trouble and expense of visiting Crufts to become the owner of a pedigree Dalmatian.

There is, however, an unpleasant side to this otherwise harmless adoration of the dog. Although it is nice that the French should have retained the engaging habit of presenting visiting cards, it is a matter of regret that their dogs seem follow suit in the only way they know how.

In this little corner of the Mediterranean South West, the sun shines for an average of 300 days a year and the

August temperature can exceed 35C. Yet the most practical summer footwear is not espadrilles but wellington boots. At the very least, sensible shoes are sensibly worn to protect against the offensive adhesions that turn the village into a malodorous minefield.

The French may love to keep dogs, but what they are not keen on, in these parts at least, is the sort of long, solitary walks so many British dog-owners seem to enjoy. The nearest car park is the favourite spot for formal exercise, which consists mainly of smoking a cigarette while chatting to neighbours and watching the dog doing its business in the shade of the parked vehicles. Consequently, getting into your car is one of the most hazardous undertakings of the day.

Most often, the village dogs are simply released at regular intervals into the largely traffic-free streets, and summoned home again by a fascinating range of roars and whistles, which are particularly appealing late at night.

People do occasionally complain about the mess, and things are now being done about it. In the nearby city of Perpignan, I have noticed patrolmen on motorised pooper-scoopers, while in Paris new laws are being employed against fouling. Generally, however, the renowned Gallic insouciance prevails.

I do wonder, though, whether the only too obvious traces of the dog have anything to do with the fact that, among a nation not much given to gross language, the favourite swearword is *merde*.

'The smaller the living space, the larger the breed or the greater the numbers'

Not a whiff of Spam

FRANCE

FIRST IMPRESSIONS

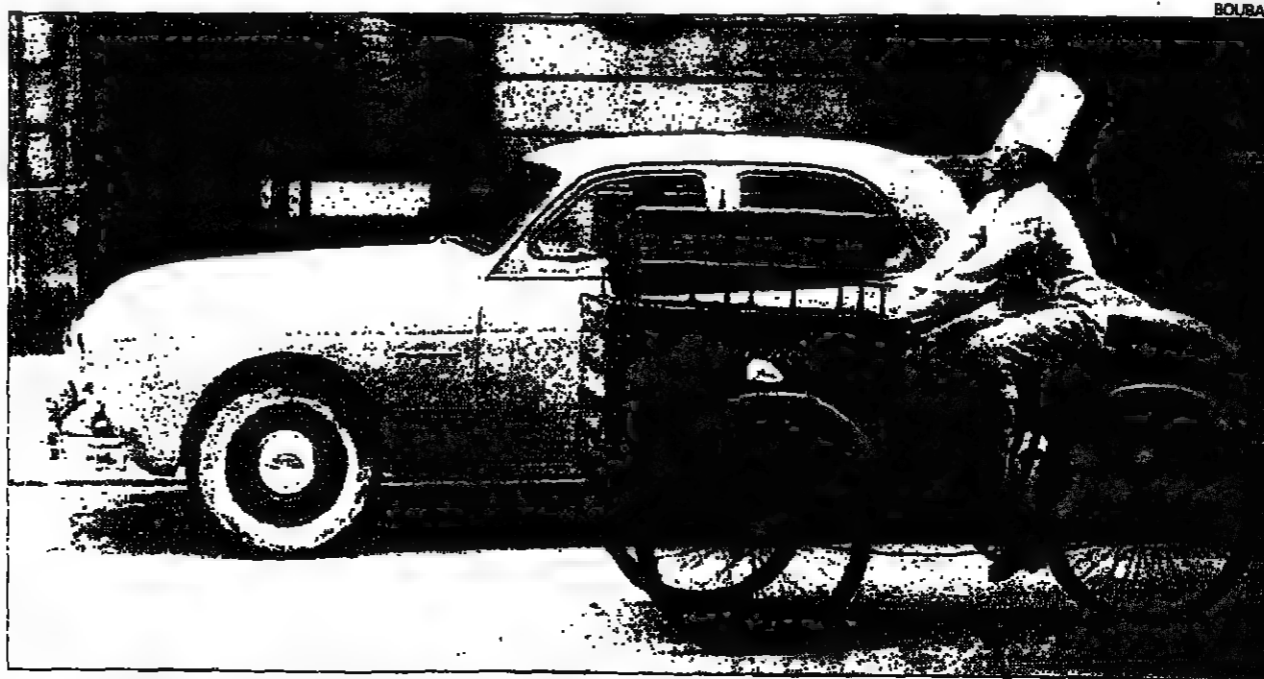
For those wartime children and adolescents who crossed the Channel first as young adults in the late 1940s and early 1950s, France was a revelation of prosperity, *joie de vivre* and double cream. Their minds were full of stories of the occupation, the dark days and the desperate last battles: fathers or brothers had fought in the trenches, gone to Dunkirk or stormed the Normandy beaches.

Yet when they landed, here was France peachily blooming again, in contrast to the dour ration-book society back home. "I went in 1948, when I was 14," says David Marquand, Professor of Politics at Sheffield. "The scars of battle were everywhere, all right, but people did seem to live well. There was still rationing, but it didn't seem to make any difference. I couldn't believe that I could eat all the meat I wanted, every single day."

In the accounts of those whose first impressions date from that time, one hears again and again that note of incredulity. "Britain in 1949", writes Penny Roper-Evans, one of many *Times* readers who responded to a request for reminiscences, "was still a very post-war country. London after five years of war showed signs of wear and tear, houses were unpainted, fences unmended and the roads and pavements full of holes."

But Paris was alive and well: "The shops were full, the women unbelievably chic, the cafés flourishing. How the city had revived so quickly and so vitally remains a mystery."

Her French employers' table was a shock: "Butter appeared in large quantities, so did cream and meat, wonderful salads with various dressings, croissants, plates of different cheeses, *pain d'épice* at tea-time, coffee at breakfast in a bowl, rich milk chocolate ...



Post-war plenty: an ice-cream vendor in the 16th arrondissement of Paris, 1954, miles from British austerity

To a hungry 15-year-old who could not remember a rationed world it was incredible, marvellous, a feast."

Others tell tales of encountering their first fresh peach, of the "incredibly un-Spam-like" quality of *pâté de foie gras*, of drinking *vin ordinaire* as if it were lemonade and feeling their heads "spin with the richness of it all, after Britain". Keith Waterhouse, then a rising young journalist down from the North, made his first trip to Paris in 1952. "I'd been brought up with a suspicion of all foreigners, you know, lesser

breeds. But I got there when we were still plunged into austerity, and found them all jolly and gay — and the moment I saw the place I thought, 'Hello, I'm going to have some more of this!'

Cartoonist Bill Tidy, rather younger at 17, was only passing through, landing at Beauvais airport on the first leg of an early package holiday to Spain. His upbringing had not made him instinctively Francophile. "All right, I admit it, my mother had brought me up to consider the French a rotten, cowardly,

godless lot who let us down in the war. I lived in a pub, so everything was perfectly simple: people who drank beer were OK, people who drank wine were a flaccid, wet lot."

Armed with this knowledge, he bussed across France, peering warily out of the window.

"The first thing that impressed me was that the Customs officers looked like Foreign Legionnaires. I liked that, and decided they weren't such a bad lot after all. I thought the farms looked very

poor and crummy, now I know they were actually very rich, just different." The differences, like all European differences, continued to provide Mr Tidy with cartoon subjects for years. "Eating horses, all that stuff. Wonderful."

For it takes a lot to kill a stereotype. When Professor Marquand went back after National Service in 1954 to hitch-hike from St Malo to the Mediterranean, his companion was actor and playwright Alan Bennett, on his first trip abroad and suspicious of what he might find. "I'd imagined

something different and wonderful, but it wasn't quite so. Actually, my main memory is that I wore steel-rimmed glasses because I was just out of the army, so people thought I was German and spat at me in the street."

The food, however, remains a glowing fond memory for both. Back at Oxford, as Professor Marquand says, dinners were still "revolving, no, unspeakably vile". A matter, I suppose, of different national priorities.

TIBBY PURVES

Properties of the week

FRANCE

WHAT YOU CAN GET FOR £30,000 TO £35,500



This *maison de maître* for sale at £30,000 (excluding agency and notary fees), is situated in small village, about 12 miles from the fortified town of Villefranche, in the Aveyron, a 90-minute drive from the nearest international airport at Toulouse; at least 12 hours from Calais. The property comprises two houses, one renovated, the other to renovate. The house on the left of the picture is simple, but habitable; it has a large kitchen with fireplace, living room, two bedrooms, WC and shower. The adjoining six-roomed house, with WC and attic, for renovation, would be suitable for a *chambre d'hôtes* or *gîte*. The UK agent is Sifer, Phoenix House, 86 Fulham High Street, London SW6 (071-384 1200).



The same sort of money — £30,000 (excluding fees) — will buy this substantial stone house in a hamlet between Morlaix and Lannion in Brittany. It is a few miles inland from the spectacular Côte de Granite Rose (pink granite coast) and 30 minutes drive from the ferry terminal at Roscoff. It was used until recently as a B & B, and has been renovated, but needs some interior redecoration. It has a fully fitted kitchen, a large washroom, WC and lounge on the ground floor. There are two bedrooms and a bathroom on the first floor, and another two bedrooms upstairs. It comes with a garage and lawned rear garden. The UK agent is Normandy and Brittany cottages, 62 Chesnut Road, London, W14 (071-581 4433).



Spend another £5,500 — £35,500 (including agency fees) — for this traditional *colombage* (half-timbered) Normandy cottage, with unspoilt views over the Yere valley in the Seine Maritime. The nearest ferry port is Dieppe, about 45 minutes drive. Built in stone and wood, under a steeply sloping slate roof, the property is in good condition; with full gas central heating, it has a large living/dining room with rustic fireplace, fitted kitchen, bedroom and bathroom on the ground floor. An external staircase leads to a loft suitable for conversion. There is an outhouse that serves as a guest bedroom, a further small outbuilding, a garage and a quarter of an acre of garden. The UK agent is Northern France Properties, 70 Brewer Street, London, W1 (071-287 4940).

CHERYL TAYLOR

● In Weekend Times tomorrow: Buyer's France — the Haute-Savoie

TOMORROW

Win a gastronomic champagne weekend in Reims by answering three questions in the *Times* Veave Cluquot competition. Runners-up win a bottle of Yellow Label champagne. See Weekend Times

The *Times* is available in most major towns in France but you can order a copy which will usually arrive a day after publication. Contact: News International Distribution Ltd, Subscriptions Dept, PO Box 479, Virginia Street, London E1 9XN (071-782 6129)

LIFE & TIMES FRIDAY JULY 10 1992

MODERN TIMES: HEALTH 5

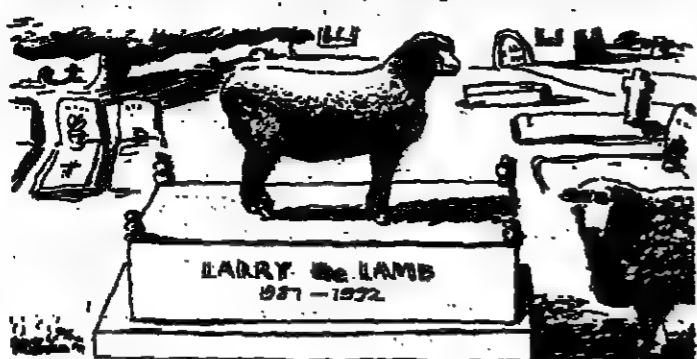
One man's poison

VICTORIAN country parsons might have known of the poisonous nature of yew trees in the churchyard from reading Virgil, Caesar, and Livy; now they probably learn the hard way when sheep grazing the grass eat yew clippings and die from gastrointestinal inflammation.

The poisonous taxines from the European yew tree, *Taxus baccata*, have only slight affinity with the anti-cancer drug Taxol prepared from the bark of the Pacific yew, *Taxus brevifolia*. The rare, slow growing Pacific yew is under threat because, *The Lancet* reports, two to three thousand trees would be required to produce

only 2lb of the drug Taxol. Even though highly toxic, Taxol has been used successfully in combination with other drugs to treat advanced ovarian cancer, melanoma, as well as some lung tumours and those of the gastrointestinal system. The latest research has demonstrated a good response to Taxol treatment in advanced cases of cancer of the breast. The drug is in very short supply but the experimental work will stimulate a search for similar chemicals from other trees, perhaps including *Taxus baccata*, so that the trees planted for English bowmen may yet appear bottled on the chemist's shelves.

Taxol may prove to be a valuable ingredient in combined chemotherapy, which would be useful in selected cases, but it is unlikely ever to be a panacea.



Unhappy returns

THE circumstances of Richard Hughes's death from malaria — he was 57 and returning from his honeymoon in Kenya — have given publicity to a disease which at least hundreds of Britons every year, and kills a some or so.

Contrary to it sports, there is no magic inoculation which will stop a traveller catching malaria. Vaccination is still at an experimental stage. Prophylaxis depends on the tedious routine of taking tablets: the nature of the tablet depending on where the person is going and the type of malaria likely to be encountered.

There are four types of malarial parasite. The most dreaded, and it is one which killed Mr Hughes, is *Plasmodium falciparum*, which causes malignant tertian malaria, with the potentially fatal complication of cerebral malaria. Cerebral malaria accounts for 80 per cent of death from malaria.

Prevention is achieved by both taking pills and avoiding being bitten by the anopheles mosquito — the use of mosquito nets and wearing long trousers after dark, for example. These precautions were available to the 19th-century traveller as they are to the 20th-century holidaymaker, but the latter also has the advantage of air-conditioning and an efficient insect repellent, diethyl toluamide (Deet), particularly important in the evenings or if resting in a shady spot. Travellers should seek expert advice about recommended drugs. Whatever regimen is ordered, it must be started a week before setting off and taken for at least four weeks, preferably five to eight weeks, after



MEDICAL BRIEFING
Dr Thomas Stuttford

returning. Two drugs are often used in combination to help some of the problems caused by drug resistance in the malarial parasite. Malaria is particularly dangerous to pregnant women, as no prophylactic regimen is effective. The only drugs they should take are paludrine and chloroquine.

Others with a lower resistance would be well advised to holiday in malaria-free countries. Former residents of tropical countries should never forget that any acquired resistance to malaria is soon lost after they return to temperate zones.

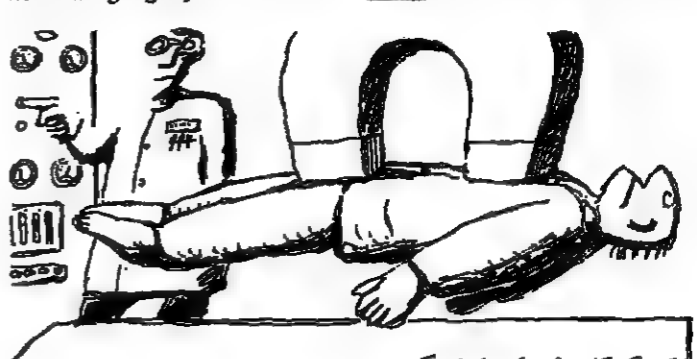
One of the first rules of prevention is to disregard the advice of old Africa hands, who often exaggerate the side effects of the preventive drugs. Expatriates, for instance, fear paludrine as much as any army recruit worried about bromide in the tea, and for the same reason: it is a total myth, although paludrine can cause mouth ulcers.

No preventive drugs are 100 per cent certain, and all have disadvantages. Chloroquine can cause rashes, dizziness, blurred vision and — in large or often-repeated doses — retinal damage. Malariprim occasionally destroys the bone marrow. Sarsidar can cause a severe skin reaction; Lariam is unsuitable for those on beta-blockers and can cause a mental breakdown in psychiatric cases. But the side effects are as nothing compared with the danger of malaria, symptoms of which may sometimes not appear until a year after a traveller has returned.

Grey area of politics

TWENTY years ago, members of the House of Commons marvelled at the complexion of Mark Woodruff, the Conservative member for the Isle of Wight, as it turned increasingly slate grey. Only a few of those present would have realised that he was suffering from haemochromatosis, an inborn error of iron metabolism which results in high blood and tissue levels of iron and is potentially fatal. Nor would many have realised how tired Mr Woodruff must have felt, and, therefore, what an effort he must have made as he put the Tory case so forcibly from his seat on the front bench below the gangway.

About three to five per thousand British people have primary haemochromatosis, and with it the risk that the increased amount of iron in their tissues will damage their livers, and hence cause cirrhosis or liver cancer, their pancreases, giving rise to diabetes, or their heart. Recently, the British Liver Trust has called for a greater awareness of the disease, which can be detected from routine blood screening, and the diagnosis confirmed by liver biopsy. Earlier treatment would, in many cases, delay, or even prevent, secondary damage. *General Practitioner* magazine draws attention to the familial nature of the complaint. It is, like cystic fibrosis, an inherited autosomal recessive trait. If one member of the family has haemochromatosis, the rest should be tested.



Animal testing could save lives like mine

Andrew Blake has placed himself on the front line in the argument over medical experiments. Liz Gill reports

Andrew Blake is the founder of a group that supports experiments on animals, and is an animal lover. He says the two are not incompatible. He was brought up on a farm and worked there until the degenerative wasting disease Friedrich's Ataxia confined him to a wheelchair; he is a member of the RSPCA and the owner of a pet white mouse that he calls Hope.

The name is significant because Mr Blake believes that it is only through such creatures that a cure for his and other diseases will be found, which is why he founded Seriously Ill for Medical Research (SIMR). Its aim, he says, is to promote research into crippling, debilitating and progressive diseases and to support the humane use of animals in that research.

"It is the voice of the people who actually have the highest stakes at risk, their lives. We are the ones who would lose if animal experiments were halted," he says.

"Many of the doctors who give us hope for the future are living under siege conditions, in constant fear of attack by activists. The artillery is aimed at researchers, but it is the seriously ill who suffer most casualties. Every time a researcher is threatened or a laboratory raided, it delays a breakthrough."

Animal rights campaigners argue that experiments are unnecessary, unreliable and unethical. They believe man has no right to exploit another creature's suffering for his own ends. Mr Blake's answer is to point to the list of achievements made possible in this way: vaccines, insulin, blood transfusion, modern anaesthetics and improved surgical techniques, treatment of neurological disorders (including Parkinson's and epilepsy) and mental illnesses, medicines for asthma, ulcers, viral infections, high blood pressure, cancer drugs, the contraceptive pill, procedures such as hip replacements, organ transplants, renal dialysis and intensive care for premature babies.

"The argument that animals are no use in human research is quite clearly wrong; animals have played an important part in most major discoveries. And they are still needed for all those conditions we cannot cure and often cannot even treat," Mr Blake says.

"There have been enormous advances in computer technology and cell cultures but you cannot reproduce a complex life system in a test tube. I know with my own disorder that the mice are essential. They form the link between the test tube and the patient."

"When people have ethical objections I say 'Fine, if a human is not a higher animal then don't take the drugs. Nobody is forcing you to'. But virtually all medical treatments, everything you get on a doctor's prescription, stuff you buy over the counter in a chemist's, has been tested on animals. People don't usually refuse. They are taking them for their own benefit."

Mr Blake adds that humans are not the sole beneficiaries. Animal research, he says, has been important in the development of veterinary science: a third of veterinary medicines, for instance, are the same as those used for humans. "People often think supporters of animal research do not care for animals. This could not be more



Of mice and men: Andrew Blake and his pet white mouse, the appropriately named Hope

wrong. Being aware of the necessity for research does not weaken our moral responsibility for the welfare of all animals," Mr Blake says. "And many sufferers of serious illness treasure the companionship of animals, probably more than able people do."

"But there is a difference between welfare and rights. Urbanisation has meant that many of us have become very distanced from animals and a lot of people sentimentalise them."

SIMR receives a small amount of financial support from some drug companies, which Mr Blake prefers not to name. He stresses that his group supports the use of animals only for essential medical research where there is no alternative (it opposes cosmetic testing, for example) and insists that such research must be carried out as humanely as possible.

"You have to get it in proportion too. In one year there are three million animal experiments but 450 million animals are slaughtered for food and seven million destroyed as vermin or unwanted pets."

The Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986, he says, lays down stringent controls to ensure suffering is kept to a minimum. He accepts, though, that some animals are caused pain. "But there is

enormous human suffering, too. I know this at times I have lain in a hospital bed and wished to die to get out of pain."

Friedrich's Ataxia is an extremely rare inherited disease affecting about two people in 100,000. Until Mr Blake was affected, when he was aged 11, he had had a normal boyhood; after he got the degenerative disease, "my future could be read from medical textbooks, a wheelchair followed by an early grave."

The disease attacks the central nervous system progressively; the brain stops, healthy but is trapped within an increasingly crippled body. At 29, Mr Blake has been in a wheelchair for 12 years and now lives in a specially adapted flat near Dunstable, Bedfordshire, where he can work with painful slowness at the computer terminal which enables him to produce the organisation's quarterly newsletter and research material.

The issue is one in which feelings run high, and he has already received hate mail. "One said, 'I hope you rot in a wheelchair'. At first I made me wonder if I was doing the right thing, but now I have learned to laugh at it."

The group has 80 members so far: most are either seriously ill

themselves (many with multiple sclerosis, muscular dystrophy or arthritis) or have sick friends and relatives. The aim, he says, is to raise consciousness among the public and to publicise the facts. Members are encouraged to write letters and articles, talk to the media, form local support groups and address schools.

Mr Blake denies that they are twisting any emotional screws. "If anyone is doing that, it is the animal rights activists with their propaganda pictures of people's pets." He claims that eight out of ten animal experiments are on rats and mice rather than cats or dogs.

The long term outlook in the battle against Friedrich's Ataxia is promising. Scientists hope to identify the gene that causes it and ultimately to cure it via a corrective gene. Provided, Mr Blake says, research can continue.

"It is probably too late for a breakthrough to save me, but it's not just myself I'm fighting for. It's for future generations who will rely on present-day research to lay the foundations. My goal would be that no child should have to be in a wheelchair."

● *Seriously Ill for Medical Research*, PO Box 504, Houghton Regis, Dunstable, Bedfordshire LU5 5YW (0582 964596).

Dilemma for parents and doctors when a child fails to grow

Tina Webb, the administrator of the Restricted Growth Association, recalls seeing two very small women in a Beijing store taking turns to hold each other up so that they could see into the freezer.

The image may seem funny, even endearing, which is perhaps why as a society we have tended to patronise "little people". The reality of being very short is, of course, neither funny nor endearing. It can be a source of profound, sometimes unbearable, pain. Two years ago the actor David Rappaport, who starred in the film *Time Bandits* and the television series *LA Law*, shot himself in a Hollywood park. He was aged 38 and 3ft 11in tall.

"There are all kinds of problems — jobs, activities, clothes — but the biggest barriers are social," Mrs Webb says. "The attitude is often: small people, small minds."

It is hardly surprising, therefore, that where treatment was available parents and children should have seized the chance, and it is doubly cruel that such treatment may now turn out to have been lethal.

Earlier this week it was announced that six families whose children have died in their twenties and thirties from Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease, the human form of bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE), after being injected with human growth hormone, are to sue the government for compensation. The hormone, extracted from the pituitaries of cadavers, was given to 1,900 children in the UK between 1959 and 1985. Seven have died and an eighth has developed the dementia typical of Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease. The rest must live with an unpredictable time bomb.

The daughter of Tam Fry, the chairman of the Child Growth Foundation, was given the treatment after her pituitary failed at the age of three. She has no symptoms of Creutzfeldt-Jakob and as a young adult she will now make her own decision about any litigation, for example, to seek compensation for suffering.

"It is always there in your mind but you have to accept it as something you cannot do anything about," her father says. "It could be that not one more person dies but there could be ten next year."

Children can fail to grow for a variety of reasons: they may have a physical condition, such as a heart, kidney or digestive disease; girls may have Turner's syndrome, in which a missing sex chromosome affects development; children may suffer from achondroplasia, a genetic bone disorder that produces the short limbs but normal trunk of the "circus dwarf"; they may never produce growth hormone or lose the ability to do so after treatment for cancer, surgery or trauma, physical or emotional.

Moreover, the definition of abnormal growth is not a precise one. Medical charts would put the normal height range for an adult man between 5ft 3in and 6ft 1in, and for an adult woman between 4ft 11in and 5ft 8in. This, Mr Fry says, puts 6 per cent of the population — 3 per cent at each end of the scale — outside the norm. Yet the sexes fare differently.

"We would not think of a 6ft 4in man as having a problem," Mr Fry says. "Small men have traditionally over-compensated, sometimes with good, sometimes bad results. Small women do not suffer so harshly. For women being too tall is more likely to be the problem."

A more appropriate yardstick is parental height. Dr Jerry Wales, a senior lecturer in paediatric endocrinology at the University of Sheffield Children's Hospital, which specialises in the medical and surgical treatment of growth problems, says: "If you have 6ft parents and the child is going to end up 4ft 8in, there is obviously something wrong."

"Being very short can cause immense distress, milder forms can mean very little to some people, whereas others are suicidal. There is no absolute cut-off point. Nobody would argue with treating a pituitary dwarf who is otherwise going

Deaths put the little people in focus

to grow to only 3ft 8ins, but no one would want to bother about a boy who would make 5ft 6ins, and to be 4ft 11in and female may not be so bad. How far do you go to give them an extra inch?"

There are an estimated 10,000 people of restricted growth in the UK, of whom 3,000 suffer from achondroplasia. Of the rest, many will be suitable for growth hormone treatment. Doctors switched from the human extract in 1985 and all supplies in this country are now genetically engineered. One year's treatment for one child costs the NHS approximately £10,000.

"It is totally synthetic and highly

'Being very short can cause immense distress, milder forms can mean very little to some people, whereas others are suicidal. There is no absolute cut-off point'

purified," Dr Wales says. "That is not to say that in 20 years we might not find there have been side-effects — but it is theoretically safe."

"There have been worries about cancers because you are giving a drug that makes cells divide. But careful analysis of the world experience has failed to show any evidence that it induces tumours and we are happy in our own mind. "It is extremely expensive and inconvenient because it means daily injections and it is not always efficacious, but when it is, the results can be marvellous. Children and their families are delighted."

Although we stop growing at maturity, we continue to produce growth hormone until our late fifties and there is considerable interest in its other roles. Athletes have been known to take it because it increases muscle mass. There is

interest in its use with infertile women and, perhaps most dramatically, its effects on the ageing process. Experiments in the United States suggest it may give some elderly people renewed vitality. Young adults in this country who finish treatment for growth may opt to continue with a lower dosage to combat lethargy or weight gain.

The jury is still out on the other big question of whether giving it to normal youngsters can make them grow beyond their natural potential. There are trials using volunteers, small children of small parents who feel lack of height disadvantaged them and who want their offspring to be taller. But Dr Wales feels there have not been enough trials yet and he says: "There also seems to be a law of diminishing returns: you have to give larger and larger doses to produce little effect. It may simply be that all you are doing is speeding up the process of growth, not extending it."

Where hormone treatment is not effective or appropriate, the only real alternative is limb lengthening, which can add an extra 12 inches over a couple of years. The technique involves breaking a bone and inserting a device that moves the fracture apart. New bone then fills in the gap. At the moment it is the only option for achondroplasia.

Most growth disorders should be noticeable by the age of three, Mr Fry says, but the average age of diagnosis is eight. His daughter was seven before she began the treatment that brought her up to just under 5ft 2in — 13 inches taller than she would have been — and then only after a school nurse read an article on the subject.

"The problem was that she was not ill. Doctors saw a perfectly healthy child, who was like a doll," Mr Fry says. He believes there should be a national growth surveillance policy, so that children are measured routinely from birth through childhood. Meanwhile, parents can check their child's pattern against average growth charts (available from GPs and health centres). "If your child's growth veers away from the normal line it is a very graphic illustration that something is wrong," Mr Fry believes.

Children's growth rates vary widely at different ages, decreasing through infancy and later childhood and then putting on a spurt at adolescence. Dr Wales says that any child, not just those coming up to or finishing puberty, who is growing less than four centimetres (1½ in) a year may have a problem.

OLIVIA JAMES



Growing pains: Alice's famous problem of size in Wonderland

ROADWISE

Lada lower

LADA is holding down prices to combat the recession. Its new Samara 1.3L saloon will come into the showrooms at £4,295, making it one of the cheapest new cars on the market. In addition, some hatchback models will be reduced by 15 per cent. A 1.3-litre hatchback will be available at £4,995. Delivery, number plates and six months' road tax cost an extra £375 at all dealers.

This is a specialist technique which ordinary drivers will probably never need, although these days you might see it practised enthusiastically on a bad Saturday night on a suburban council estate.

The difference between my turn and a similar manoeuvre by a teenage joyrider is that Herr Moch's techniques are designed to be failsafe, and to help cultivate habits which ultimately give the

that
pens

The surveys show that nobody admits to being hopeless at the wheel: in fact, about 90 per cent of motorists questioned claim to have mastered the art of driving.

But how many really understand the physics of how a tonne of moving metal reacts, particularly at speed? What happens when the car starts to slither into a potentially fatal skid, and how do you get out of it?

Providing the answers to those questions would almost certainly be beyond all but a handful of this country's 20 million drivers.

Plenty might have a stab at the brakes and hope for the best, yet grabbing for the anchors can sometimes be the worst thing to do. Herr Moch says that anticipation



Faster than a speeding bullet: driving expert Guido Moch displays the art of life-and-death driving on the Mercedes test track

To prove the point, Herr Moch put me through a series of rigorous exercises to improve my car control. The first was to drive on simulat-

ed ice, specially laid at the Lucas Automotive test centre near Coventry, in the West Midlands, and a surface so slippery it could have been a sheet of glass.

Hitting the brakes at 30mph then steering through two corners looked easy when Herr Moch did it. It took me several attempts and

Then on to the snake, a tight course of weaving bends requiring skilful steering, canny braking and

according to Herr Moch, and was a lesson well learnt for me.

Not everyone can take lessons from Herr Moch, but most can apply the Moch principles: care and control are the watchwords, and for those who want to make driving a skill instead of simply bumbling from A to B.

To learn some of those skills, enrol on a driver training course. There are many, particularly at local race tracks, and apart from gaining car control, it is a lot of fun. Driving in difficult circum-

stances will not make you into Nigel Mansell or land you a job as President Bush's chauffeur. But it might get you home safely.

TODAY, hundreds of motorists will make a blunder at the pumps that will cost them dearly. The RAC, for one, says it makes 12,000 calls every year to motorists who have put the wrong fuel in their tanks, such as filling a diesel car with petrol. Draining petrol from a diesel car can cost £60, but putting unleaded petrol into a car with a catalytic converter will cost between £250 and £500 to replace the "cat" if the engine has been started.

BMW has introduced new four-wheel drive models to Britain for the first time. The electronically controlled power distribution system offers BMW drivers extra grip and stability automatically.

The cars are all powered by the 2.5-litre, 192bhp, six-cylinder engine and cost £25,500 for the 525iX saloon and £27,350 for the 525iX Touring estate. Two special equipment versions are also available.

Soft shoulder
THERE can be no nicer way to put it than on this road sign spotted in India by Alison Roberts, a reporter

ROAD TEST

Diesel is delightful, until you go to fill up



Nippy winner: the Citroën ZX Aura Turbo Diesel

THERE was a heart-stopping moment when I thought that British Petroleum had made a terrible mistake, Kevin Eason writes. Turning into Watford Gap services on the southbound M1 with an empty tank made the need for a fill-up of diesel urgent. But where was the diesel pump? Two lines of unleaded and leaded pumps faced me, but there seemed nowhere I could refill my thirsty Citroën ZX turbo diesel. In fact, there was only a single diesel pump on a forecourt packed with about a dozen cars. I

had no alternative but to go around the side to join lines of forties to find my elusive diesel.

pulling in between a couple of
32 onners at what BP describes
as "high speed pump". Although
there was a warning which led me
to believe the fuel would be
pumped through at quite a rate. I
did not realise there was no cut-out
at the full-tank stage. The resultant
drenching was not pleasant.

But these are mere quibbles: the Citroën ZX turbo diesel, a turbocharged version of its trusty 1.9

litre diesel, is a wonderful car. The next time someone asks me: "Which car would you buy?", I have an answer: if I had £12,000 to spend on a first-rate, small family hatchback, I could not think of a

The car gives a regular 40 miles to the gallon from an engine smooth and zippy enough to make the driver believe the car is a conventional petrol model. I can, however, understand why potential buyers are put off diesel when they discover they are consigned to

the tradesmen's entrance of a filling station. Watford Gap is not the only example. Many filling stations have only one diesel pump and usually pitched at the furthest corner of the forecourt.

It is time oil companies promoted diesel from the filling station ghetto to the front rank

**CITROËN ZX AURA
TURBO DIESEL:**
Price: £11,970. Engine: 1.9 litre
diesel, turbocharged for 92bhp
through five-speed manual gear-
box. Performance: 0 to 60mph in
10.3 seconds, top speed 115mph.
39.2 mpg around town.

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CHANNEL 4

6.00 **The Channel Four Daily** (3750213)
9.25 **Eilly and Joels**. Comedy series about a schoolboy with a girl ghost as a friend (1) (542861)
9.55 **The Hendersons**. Film. Australian family drama series (3) (5933710)
10.25 **The Hendersons**. Film. Australian family drama series (4) (5933711)
10.55 **Richard Gere, George Sanders and William Henry**. Four brothers set out to clear their disgraced Indian Army colonel father's name and investigate his mysterious death. Directed by John Ford (88067687)
12.00 **The Parliament Programme** presented by Anne Perkins (76652)
12.30 **Woad's Ark**. Amphibious animals of the Amazon (1) (30215)
1.00 **Seance Street**. Pre-school learning series (90720)
2.00 **Love Lucy** (b/w). Vintage American comedy starring Lucille Ball (7855)
2.30 **Channel 4 Racing** from York. Derek Thompson introduces live coverage of the 2.35, 3.10, 3.40 and 4.10 races (23652)
4.30 **Countdown**. Another round of the words and numbers quiz game (5) (7200)
5.00 **History: Birds of Death**. A repeat of Monday's programme about the newly-formed RAF security bombing peasant villages in the Empire to quell uprisings. (Teletext) (3382)
6.00 **Blossom**. Comedy series starring Mayim Bialik as a teenage girl in an otherwise all-male Los Angeles household (1) (713)
6.30 **Tour de France**. Stage six - Roubaix to Brussels, a distance of 150 miles (565)
7.00 **Channel 4 News** with Jon Snow and Zeinab Badawi. (Teletext) Weather (519953)
7.50 **First Reaction**. Robert Elms reviews the BBC's new soap, *Eldorado*



An unexpected bonus: Michael Le Vell as Kevin (7-30pm)

7.30 Coronation Street. Kevin (Michael Le Vell) receives a present from his boss Mike Baldwin. (Oracle) (107)

8.00 Athletics. Live coverage of the London grand prix from Crystal Palace. Introduced by Jim Rosenthal. The commentators are Peter Matthews, Steve Overtt and Alan Parry. (Continues on C4) (8671)

9.00 Survival Special: The Nature of Russia — Song of the Volga. ● CHOICE: For its latest exploration of the wildlife of Russia, Anglia Television goes to the mouth of Volga river and roams over the surrounding steppes, the Caucasus mountains and the Caspian Sea. The film of oil and pleasure seekers, shows an overriding theme: lucky dip which should yield something for everyone. Connoisseurs of caviar will be interested to know that three-quarters of the world's sturgeon is caught in the Caspian, although supplies are being reduced by pollution, poaching and a giant dam. There is a more positive story about the saiga antelope. Unlike to the region, it was almost wiped out by hunting but is happily back in its numbers. The obligation to protect the mating lairs of the brown bear but the film is thankfully low on violence. The photography is superb. (Oracle) (5107)

10.00 News at Ten with Alastair Stewart and Julia Somerville. (Oracle) Weather (839671) 10.35 LWT News (817294)

10.40 Film: The Good, the Bad and the Ugly (1967) starring Clint Eastwood, Eli Wallach and Lee Van Cleef. Eastwood's turn as spaghetti western and a box office hit. Set at a time of the civil war, the three characters are forced to work together to form an uneasy alliance in a search for hidden gold. Their task is made more complicated by the unwelcome attentions of a ruthless bounty hunter. Directed by Sergio Leone (1968/3478)

2.00am American Gladiators. Tests of strength and strategy (810817)

3.05 Cinema/Attractions. The latest movie news from the United States (86458922) 3.35 Raw Power. Rock music videos (2614091)

4.35 Barker-Karpis News. Gene Barry stars as the well-heeled Beverly Hills cop. In this episode investigating the murder of a nightclub hostess (8647556)

5.30 ITN Mornings News with Phil Roman (70546). Ends at 6.00



Three's a crowd: surprise house guest Kazia Pelka (8.00pm)

- 8.00 **Brookside**. Soap set in suburban Menseside. Tonight Max Farnham has some explaining to do when Patricia discovers Anna (Kasia Pielak) in the house. (Teletext) (c) 1994/9
- 8.30 **The Mike & Sandra Show**. Last in the three-episode music knowledge quiz, presided by Tony Slattery. The guests are Michael Ball, Gail Thompson and Richard Vrandach (c) 76022/9
- 8.55 **International Athletics continued** from ITV. The London grand prix from Crystal Palace (701851/9)
- 10.00 **Roseanne**. Blue-collar comedy starring Roseanne Arnold and John Goodman (773811)
- 10.30 **Hale and Pace**. A repeat of the comedians' first series (65229/9)
- 11.00 **A Stab in the Dark**. Topical comment on the week's news from David Baddiel, Tracy Maeland and Michael Gove (c) 96711
- 11.30 **Flicky**. Gray the Cuck (1948, b/w) starring Gwyneth Paltrow, Richard Conte and Shelley Long. A drama about a New York detective on the trail of a childhood friend who has escaped from prison after killing a policeman. Directed by Robert Siodmak. (Teletext) (892621/9)
- 11.00am **Twilight Zone: A Most Unusual Camera** (b/w). A couple discover that the camera they stole can predict the future in the pictures it takes (403854/6). Ends at 1.40

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ANGULA
As London on 10.00am-10.25 Ad-
mission on Kythera (6567/223) 2.15pm
to 10.15 Island Sun (5035/04) 3.25-3.50 Dogs
Dinner (5684/243) 5.10-5.40 Nature
Walk (5684/243) 5.40-6.00 Night
Club (5684/243) 6.00-6.30
2.26/26/23) 6.30-7.00 Anglia News (4053/30)
0.45 Whymers (8065/58) 11.40
Cinema (5684/243) 11.40-12.00
0.45 PM: The Mantis (585/68)

BORDER
As London on 10.00am-10.25 Ad-
mission on Kythera (6567/223) 1.45 Seeing
the Doctor (5684/243) 2.15pm
7.55/55/50 6.00 Lookaround Ireland (671)
1.30-7.00 Late the High Road (923) 10.40
Anglia News (5684/243) 11.40
Cinema (5684/243) 11.40-12.00
0.45 PM: 1.30 Night Beat (732/324) 4.45-5.30 PM:
Cinema (5684/243) 11.40-12.00

GRANADA
As London on 10.00am-10.25 Ad-
mission on Kythera (6567/223) 2.15pm
to 10.15 Island Sun (5035/04) 3.25-3.50
Dogs Dinner (5684/243) 5.10-5.40
Celebration (5667/59) 11.40
Anglia News (5684/243) 11.40-12.00
Cinema (5684/243) 11.40-12.00
2.26/26/23) 6.30-7.00 Anglia News (4053/30)
0.45 Whymers (8065/58) 11.40
Cinema (5684/243) 11.40-12.00
0.45 PM: The Mantis (585/68)

HIT WEST
As London on 10.00am-10.25 Ad-
mission on Kythera (6567/223) 1.45-2.15
Seeing the Doctor (5684/243) 2.15pm
Country Programme (5684/243) 6.00-6.30
Night Club (5684/243) 6.30-7.00
1.30-7.00 Let's Go (523) 10.40 Festival
(671) 11.40-12.00 Festivals of the World
(5684/243) 11.40-12.00
(12366/59) 12.40-2.00 PM: Calculated Risk

[illegible]

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COMPILED BY PETER DEAR AND GILLIAN MAXEY
TV CHOICE PETER WAYMARK/RADIO CHOICE PETER DAVALLE